FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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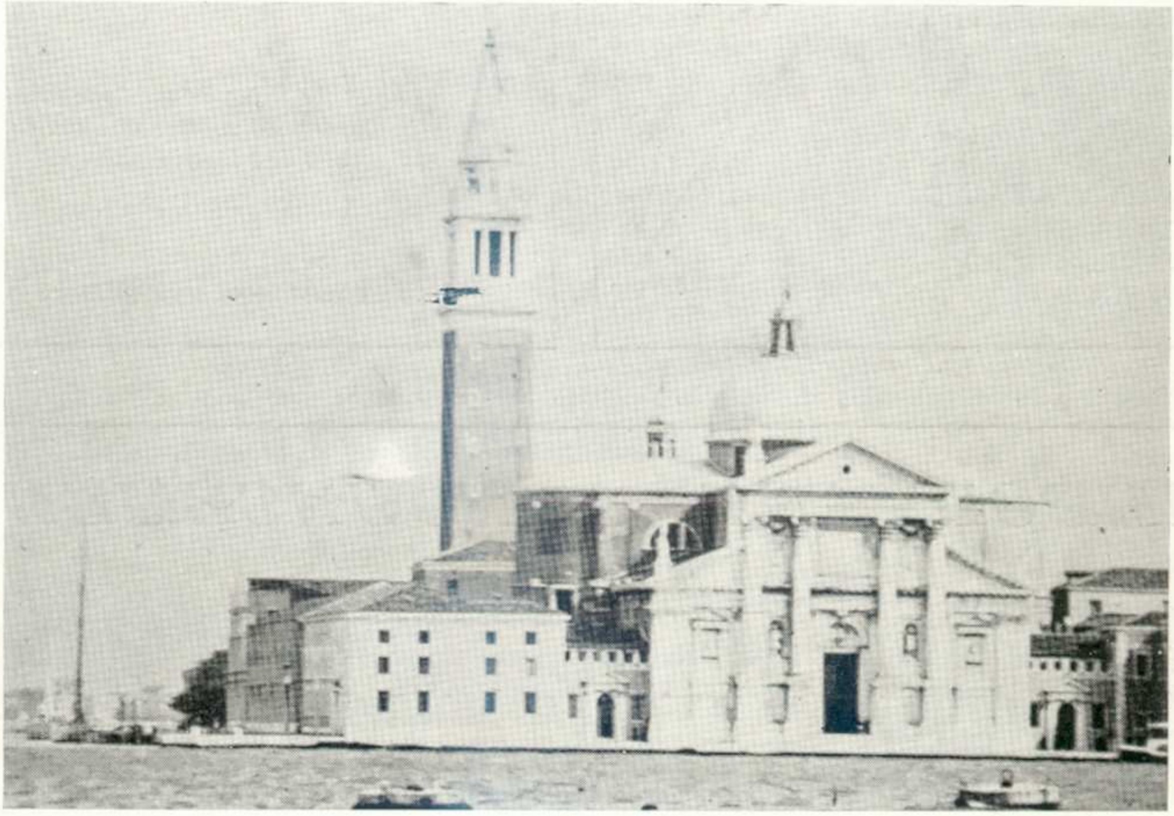

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THE LITTLE BLUE MAN ON STUDHAM COMMON

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The bi-monthly Journal of SPACE

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 13 No. 4 JULY-AUGUST

CAUTIOUS PIONEER

THE contrariness of fate has ensured that two of the least significant of all UFO reports will go down in the history of the subject as two of the most important on record.

Press coverage of the sightings reported from the marshy country around Dexter and Hillsdale, near Ann Arbor, Michigan, in March 1966, was presented with such vigour that the United States Air Force scientific consultant on UFOs was sent to investigate the incidents. When the consultant —Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory—arrived at Dexter, he found the place in an uproar, with an atmosphere bordering on hysteria. He was pitchforked into an investigation in impossible conditions, with hordes of newspaper men and photographers jostling and badgering him wherever he went.

The explosion of interest stemmed from the publicity given to the UFO events of the previous months, and also from the official explanations of some of these incidents which had invoked both amused comment and a great deal of scorn. Small wonder, then, that the reporters at Dexter pounced on Dr. Hynek's speculation that observers may have witnessed the spontaneous combustion of marsh gas.

The furore which followed was probably responsible for the Hearing on UFOs by the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives and, consequently, for the establishment of the University of Colorado Investigation. This, then, is one very good reason for the elevation to importance of the otherwise unimportant Michigan cases.

Another reason for their enhanced importance is that they were responsible for the timely emergence from the shadows of Dr. Hynek.

For the best part of twenty years the Dearborn astronomer has held the post of Air Force consultant. Although he has been a watchdog working quietly behind the scenes, his comments on important cases have been made public from time to time, and he has become the butt of both eager UFO "buffs" and serious investigators. Frequently he has been castigated for a supposedly hyper-critical approach to the subject, and even more frequently he has been labelled debunker of UFOs for the U.S. Air Force. The fact remains that he had access to far more reports—and better detailed ones—than most of his critics. And his critics, who expected him to maintain a rigidly orthodox view, were not aware that through the years his personal attitude had changed from extreme scepticism to a realisation that the persistence of reliable and puzzling global reports indicated that there is a very real case to be examined. To borrow his often used radio analogy: somewhere among the background "noise" there is a signal to be detected—and amplified.

By a stroke of luck Dr. Hynek was given a chance to put a carefully prepared case for the subject at the Washington Hearing: he seized his opportunity with courage. Since then, detractors—many of them unknown to bona fide researchers and from whom little or nothing had been heard previously on the subject—have given voice to their opinions that he waited too long before airing his views.

It is the opinion of this REVIEW that Dr. Hynek's timing was excellent. Immediately before the advent of the Michigan cases of March, 1966, successive waves of UFO visitations had made a sharp impact on the public. Consider what could have happened even *three years ago* had he ventured a statement on the need for a thorough, sensible—and expensive—investigation of the problem. Flying saucers were unfashionable and "ridiculous" at the time, and there is little doubt that he would have been ostracized by his fellow scientists, and that his jobs would have been in jeopardy. Furthermore, there were many who, given such an opportunity, would have seen to it that the whole tiresome UFO business was swept under the carpet along with the Hynek reputation.

Since the establishment of Dr. Condon's Colorado University Investigation, Dr. Hynek has carefully publicised his position, notably in the Foreword to Jacques and Janine Vallée's *Challenge to Science* and in an excellent article in *Saturday Evening Post* of December 17, 1966. In the latter he presented cases from Air Force files which underline the fact that, despite a statement to the contrary at the Hearing, there *are* unsolved cases in official records where radar had confirmed important sightings. He also confirmed that the U.S. Air Force working hypothesis is that UFOs are nothing novel, and that they, hoaxes apart, are misidentifications of conventional objects or natural phenomena.

This underlines the statement made by Dr. J. MacDonald, the University of Arizona atmospheric physicist, when speaking to the American Society of Newspaper Editors on April 22, that the CIA had added a recommendation to the Robertson Report of January 1953 that flying saucers should be debunked at every opportunity. That regulation is still rigidly adhered to by Project Blue Book, and with such a restricting influence behind the Dayton scene, it is obvious that Dr. Hynek was in an uneviable position. He extricated himself from that position by his astute handling of the situation that arose, and a new respectability has now been accorded the subject. The world at large, which had once been hoodwinked into believing that flying saucers were only a music hall joke, has been warned that they are a real and ever-present problem.

Will the warning be heeded? We hope so. Public, governments and investigators alike would do well to heed Dr. Hynek's words when he points out that we might well be pitting our wits against something "we as yet cannot explain or conceive of . . ." He stresses that we have experienced vast changes in the last 100 years, and asks: "Who can say what startling facts we will learn . . . in the next 100 years?"

We echo his premise that we may well be dealing with an advanced technology, and that our twentieth century knowledge, staggering as it is, would be singularly ill-fitted to cope with the technology of the next century, let alone a thirtieth century technology.

WHEN THE CLAMPS WENT ON . . .

In mid-April this year, atmospheric physicist Dr. James MacDonald of the Department of Meteorology, University of Arizona, Tucson, sent us a copy of an address which he was to deliver to the American Society of Newspaper Editors at Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 22. Dr. MacDonald has been conducting a one-man whirlwind investigation of the UFO problem, presumably on a University bursary.

MacDonald's impressive document shows how, during researches among Blue Book files, he discovered a secret recommendation from the CIA in January 1953, that flying saucers should be debunked. This was necessary, because after the 1952 wave, an effort had to be made to keep the intelligence channels clear of unwanted clutter during the Korean war. This instruction was never withdrawn, and, as we know, the debunking has gone on unabated. MacDonald suggests this was a "foul-up" rather than something more sinister.

The cudgels are also wielded against Dr. Menzel for his "unscientific" attitude and against science writer Klass for his fireball/plasma theories.

A series of well-attested cases are quoted to demonstrate ridiculous Project Blue Book explanations.

Although this document seems to have been circulated freely since April, *Flying Saucer Review* does not have supplies so please do **not** write to us for copies.

THE LITTLE BLUE MAN ON STUDHAM COMMON

by R. H. B. Winder

THE setting is near-perfect for a fairy tale: the village, 600ft. up in the Chilterns, is quite isolated by the boundary fence of Whipsnade Park Zoo close to the N.W., and a deepish valley to the South; and by the escarpment of these chalk hills dropping steeply away on the far side of the Zoo. It all seems well removed from ions and ionisation, but perhaps not quite so remote as your editor and G. W. Creighton anticipated when they suggested that I should report on this case.

It all started with a single flash of lightning which struck on or near the common at about 1.45 p.m. on January 28, 1967. Probably an ordinary stroke, because rain was falling and the atmosphere was heavy, but it could have been initiated by artificial ionisation of the air. I mention the possibility not because any flying object was seen, but isolated strokes are not all that frequent and this one was certainly followed by some extraordinary events.

Alex Butler, aged 10 years, and his friends—Tony Banks (11), Kerry Gahill (11), Andrew Hoar (11), David Inglis (10), Colin Lonsdale (10), and John Mickleburgh (10)—were playing on the common on their way to afternoon school. They were in the vicinity of the Dell, which is a shallow valley thickly strewn with hawthorn, gorse and bracken; and a few old tin cans and motor tyres. The undergrowth is riddled with passages connecting several dens under the bigger bushes, all no doubt the work of generations of children and animals; and there is a small open space hidden in the middle. The whole is reminiscent of a surface version of a miniature Viet Cong hideout, providing good cover, even in Winter, coupled with surprising freedom of movement—for diminutive creatures. The school is about 200 yards away and the nearest houses maybe 150 yards, but small persons could remain concealed for a long time were it not for the children who obviously regard this as their territory and know virtually every blade of grass in it.

A few minutes after the lightning, and its associated thunder, Alex was casting a proprietary eye over the Dell from the top of its northern bank when he saw, quite clearly over the open centre, "a little blue man with a tall hat and a beard" standing upright and still in front of the bushes at the foot of the opposite bank. He immediately shouted a description to his friends, who were initially sceptical but confirmed his view on joining him. Reacting as if to an intruder, they all began to run down the bank towards the stranger who was only about 20 yards away. The little man reacted, in turn, by "disappearing in a puff of smoke".

It is easy, at this stage, to rationalise the happening into a fairy story based on optical and electrical effects emanating from the lightning, but this tale

Photo : Colin McCarthy

Alex Butler stands in the place where the "man" was seen

continues—without further discharges—and gets curiouser:

Finding nothing at the place where he was first seen, the boys ran on, a little to their right along the bottom of the dell and then up the far bank; still searching for their elusive quarry. They soon saw him again, this time to their left farther along the top of the bank and on the opposite side of the bushes that had previously formed his background. Once again he was standing still and facing them at a range of 20 yards. They again approached him, and he repeated his disappearing trick.

The third time they saw him he was back at the bottom of the Dell, not far from his original position. His pursuers had by now reached his second location. Looking at him through the leafless bushes, they became aware of "voices" which they describe in a manner suggesting a continuous, deep-toned, incomprehensible, and "foreign-sounding" babble, coming from a point in the bushes closer to them and down the slope to the right of their line of sight. A feeling that the little fellow had associates who were communicating with him and to whom he was replying, although they could detect no movement on his part, induced a sense of caution which deterred them from rushing towards him as before. Instead, the boys continued to circle the Dell until they could look down it, whereupon they saw him for the fourth and last time still standing as motionless as ever in the same place. Uncertain what to do next, they milled around for a few more minutes before their teacher's

whistle summoned them, and they dashed off to relate their experience.

They warned Miss Newcomb that she would not believe it, but, knowing them as well as she does and after assessing their excitement and listening to their story, she did believe them. She then very sensibly separated them and made each write it down in his own words. The essays were re-written two weeks later, not in order to alter their substance but simply to improve their spelling and tidiness, and were pasted into a book entitled "The Little Blue Man on Studham Common". It makes fascinating and convincing reading. I only wish there were space enough to reproduce it here. No doubt it will occupy an honoured place in the archives of the Studham Village Primary School.

The case was brought to our attention by Mr. L. Moulster, a long-standing reader of this review, who sent a cutting about it from the *Dunstable Borough Gazette*, dated March 3. He kindly accompanied C.B., G.W.C. and myself in a preliminary survey of the district and reminded us of local sightings investigated by him in previous years: an apparent landing at the foot of the hills not far from the Zoo and another, more controversial, case at the nearby Flying Club, of which he is a member. G.W.C. has also found another cutting from the aforementioned newspaper: dated October 15, 1965, it describes mystery lights in the sky over Whipsnade. Finally, it is hardly necessary to mention the Wildman case (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March/April 1962, p.18) that took place near Aston Clinton about six miles away on February 9, 1962.

Returning to our present case: Miss Newcomb arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Creighton, Colin McCarthy, and myself to meet the principals at the school on Saturday afternoon, May 13. Without any prompting from their obviously respected and loved teacher, they gave a very competent account of the whole incident. They also took us to the places involved and then returned with us to the schoolroom to go into more detail. The following additional points emerged:—

They estimate the little man as 3ft. tall (by comparison with themselves), with an additional 2ft. accounted for by a hat or helmet best described as a tall brimless bowler, i.e. with a rounded top. The blue colour turned out to be a dim greyish-blue glow tending to obscure outline and detail. They could, however, discern a line which was either a fringe of hair or the lower edge of the hat, two round eyes, a small seemingly flat triangle in place of a nose, and a one-piece vestment extending down to a broad black belt carrying a black box at the front about six inches square. The arms appeared short and were held straight down close to the sides at all times. The legs and feet were indistinct.

The "beard" is interesting: apparently it extended from the vicinity of the mouth downwards, to divide and run to both sides of the chest. Although agreeing that it could have been breathing apparatus, the boys could not see clearly enough to be certain and this thought had not occurred to them.

The disappearances caused me some difficulty at first, but became more understandable after further explanation: the "puff of smoke" was apparently a whirling cloud of yellowish-blue mist shot towards the pursuers, possibly from the box on the belt. They agreed that he could have nipped into the bushes before this camouflage cleared, although it dissipated quite quickly. They heard no sound other than the voices and saw no movement at any time. Nor did they smell any smells or see anything strange in the vicinity, either on the ground or in the air.

The glow and the mist could have been the products of ionising radiation. Indeed, similar emanations, not necessarily from the same source could have triggered-off the lightning in an atmosphere already charged by natural processes. However, we must not carry speculation too far. All that we are certain of at this stage is that this is no ordinary fairy tale. Nobody who knows the boys disputes that it really happened.

RETURN OF A PRODIGAL

The Spring 1967 edition of BUFORA JOURNAL carries an article (pp.4-6) by Eric Biddle, entitled *The Flying Discs and the U.S.S.R.* It was translated by Mr. Biddle from the November 1966/January 1967 issues of a Brazilian journal called *Sabedoria*.

The whole of that part of the article which appears on page 5 is a translation from the Portuguese text, itself a translation of an article by Roberto Pinotti in Ray Palmer's magazine *Flying Saucers*, and which is a summary of an original article by Alberto Fenoglio which appeared in issue No. 105, June 1–15, 1962 of the Italian journal *Oltre il Cielo; Missili e Razzi*.

It so happens that a translation by Gordon Creighton of the whole of the Fenoglio article was published in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1962, pp. 27/28.

BUFORA

Please note that the

North Regional Conference

will be held at the

Central Hall

Renshaw Street, Liverpool 1

on

November 4th, 1967

and not as announced in our last issue

Details from R. D. Hughes, Esq.
86 Trouville Road, Liverpool 4

MYSTERIOUS PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF FLYING SAUCERS

by Gordon Creighton

DR. W. Buhler in Rio de Janeiro reports that he has made investigations, and interviewed the witnesses, in two more strange cases that occurred in Brazil.

On Sunday, August 17, 1965, a thirty-two-year-old bank official named Filomeno Bida de Oliveira[1] was out with some friends on a hunting and fishing expedition on an estate about 48 kms. distant from Montes Claros, in the State of Minas Gerais.

When night began to fall, he was still fishing and, finding the mosquitoes troublesome, he had just lit a fire of dried cow-dung—a traditional remedy—when he heard, in the air above him, a noise "like the whining of a failing refrigerator motor". He looked up, and found himself right beneath the flat undercarriage of a hovering saucer, some 50 metres or so above his head.

The whine increased, and the saucer descended five metres or so, and then rose again to more or less the same height as before, but this time a little to his left. Once again it dropped about five metres, hung there for twenty seconds or so, and then the noise increased sharply and the craft shot away upwards at an angle of 30 degrees or 35 degrees, at such a tremendous speed that the witness estimates it was already totally out of sight after it had travelled the first ten or fifteen metres. (Compare with the Valensole[2] case, both as regards speed of disappearance and the "special effects".)

All this had taken place just about 50 metres from one of Oliveira's companions, who was fishing a little further along the river bank. Oliveira had called to him, but the companion was engaged in landing a fish, and did not see the saucer, the occupants of which may perhaps have been studying the peculiar and primitive type of fuel used in Oliveira's fire!

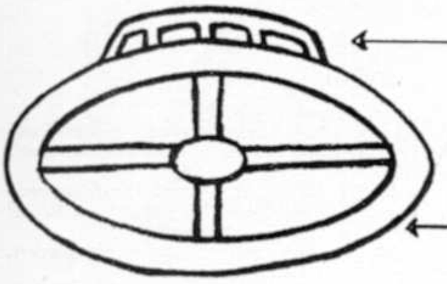


Fig. 1. Based on sketch furnished by witness

Oliveira now perceived that his heart was racing fantastically, and that he had involuntarily urinated.

Next day, he still felt a strange numbness in the body, and this led him to tell his colleagues at the bank about his experience.

The saucer was "oval in shape, not quite round." The undercarriage, virtually the only part visible to Oliveira, was a "flat plate" divided by four bars that reminded him of skates. In keeping with the oval shape, two of these bars were longer than the others. There was an outer border which he described as doughnut-shaped, or like an oval ring, and he estimated its diameter at 2 metres. Its colour was that of iron. On one side he was able to catch a glimpse of the saucer's superstructure and saw what looked like a window or windows. In the centre of the flat undercarriage there was a dark oval something which stood out from the flat plate and appeared to have some kind of indirect illumination, as he could see it particularly clearly.

Commenting on the effects on the man's heart and bladder, Dr. Buhler observes that when he interviewed him he formed the opinion that Senhor Oliveira was a very calm and solid type of individual. He did not display fear, but only curiosity, when going back over the details of his experience, and this led Dr. Buhler to feel that the physical reactions were very likely not due to fear at all, as one might perhaps have thought, but more probably to "some electrical or magnetic or ultrasonic effect on the unstriated muscle, or on the neurovegetative system of the witness".[2]

The witness does not appear to have spoken of experiencing any "paralysis", though this may perhaps be because the episode was very brief and he may not have made any attempt to move while the saucer was above him, though he did cry out.

In connexion with the incontinence of urine it should be mentioned here, for the record, that a similar violent incontinence (of the bowels) was observed by the astonished policemen at Onnaing in the north of France on the night of September 10, 1954, when Marius Dewilde[3] came running to tell them about the saucer and the little men whom he had just seen on the railway line beside his house. In Dewilde's case there is of course no doubt that he *was* very frightened, but it looks as though some other factor had contributed to his condition and that it was the same factor that caused the condition in Oliveira—a flying saucer.

It appears that these effects, or some of them, are to be found in many of the reports. The tachycardia experienced by Oliveira, for example, recalls the Kelly-Hopkinsville "goblins" case,[4] in which an investigator with medical experience timed the pulse-beats of one of the witnesses at 140 to the minute.

The second case which Dr. Buhler has investigated and reported, concerns three Brazilian businessmen[5] who were crocodile-hunting on the Rio Pardo (State of Mato Grosso) in June, 1959.

In the very early hours two of them were out in their boat, searching with a flashlight for crocodiles on the

river bank. Suddenly they noticed a bluish light away out over the forest. It approached them rapidly, changing meanwhile first to green and then to orange, and when it had reached a point opposite them, about 100 metres distant, over the other bank of the river, it came to a halt and they were able to see that it was a flying saucer.

They estimated its diameter at about 60 metres, and they could clearly see that it had a metallic surface and lights all around its rim. Slowly, as they watched, a cylindrical-shaped portion was protruded from the centre of the under-surface. This portion finally reached a length, so they calculated, of some 40 metres, and came to a halt about five metres above the tops of the trees of the tropical forest.

The saucer then tilted, and the hunters **"were able to see up the cylinder".** It was possible for them to do this without being dazzled, for whereas there was great brightness on the external surface of the cylinder, this brightness seemed to be dimmed in some strange way at the lower end of the cylinder, "in a way that no other light would have behaved".

The two hunters now had the distinct feeling that they were under surveillance, and they suddenly noticed a most extraordinary thing. As everyone knows, a tropical forest is never silent. Many insects, especially cicadas, keep up an infernal din in the Brazilian jungle, even during the hours of darkness. But now, for a brief time, all these noises were cut out; not a cicada or any other insect was to be heard. It seems that when the third member of the party (he had not seen the saucer) rejoined the two men in the boat, they found that he too was strangely upset "because of the awful silence that there had been in the forest".

Dr. Buhler comments that this phenomenon may well have been due to electromagnetic rays, as suggested by Dr. Finch in his article *Beware the Saucers.*[6]

I would add that the Barney and Betty Hill case may also be relevant. In *The Interrupted Journey*[7], we read that when Barney got out of his car the first time and walked off in the direction of the saucer (still in the air), although Betty shouted to him frantically from the car to come back, he did not hear her cries. Author John G. Fuller states that on a subsequent visit to the spot in daylight, the Hills made tests, and decided that he had probably been too far away to hear her. One may nevertheless wonder whether this too was not one of the "special effects" that we are learning to look for and about which we still know so little.

Clearly these are matters for future study by our medical and scientific colleagues and not by laymen. I therefore place these cases on record in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for reference purposes.

A special debt is owed to Dr. Buhler for his unflagging efforts in gathering these cases and interviewing witnesses.

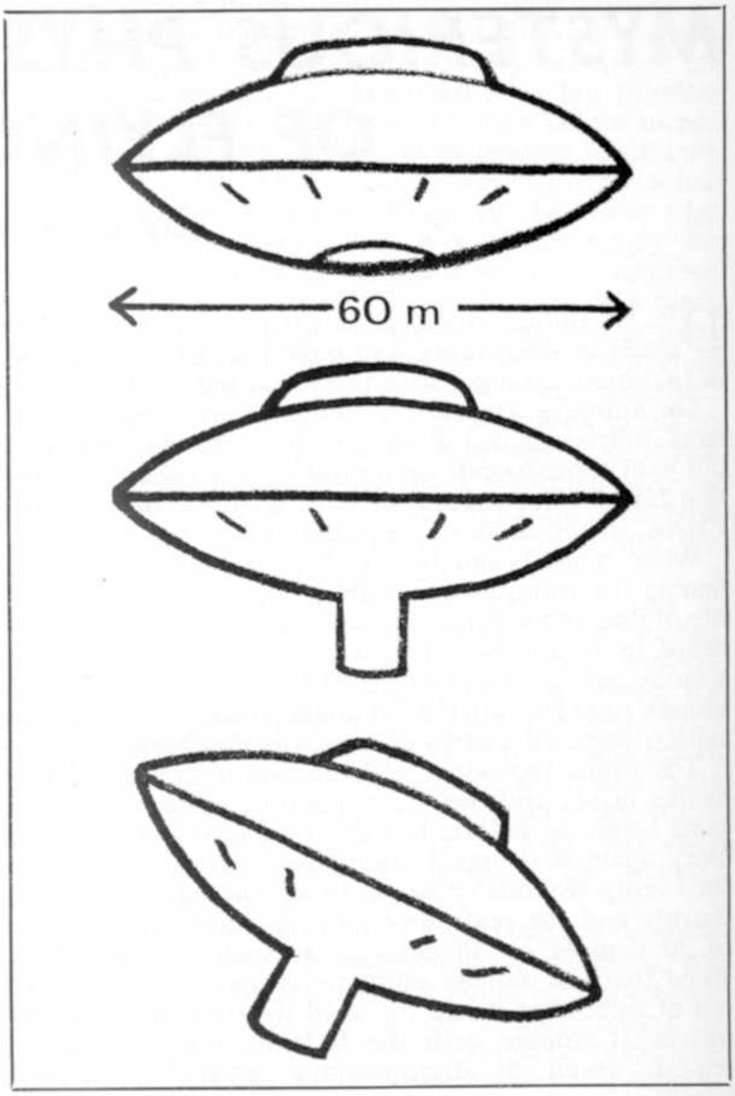


Fig. 2. The Rio Pardo Saucer
Based on sketches by Mr. Ruppert Kiener

NOTES

1 SBEDV Bulletin No. 45-47 (July/August 1965), p.7.

2 See FSR, September/October 1965, p.9. Charles Bowen: *A Significant Report from France.* Also, in the same issue, p.26. Paul Norman: *Electromagnetic Effects of UFOs.*
FSR November/December 1965, p.3, Dr. B. E. Finch: *The Langenhoe Incident;* p.4, *Knock-Out Blow at Felixstowe;* p.5, *The Significant Report from France;* p.7, Aimé Michel: *The Valensole Affair.*
FSR, January/February 1966, p.4, Dr. B. E. Finch: *Beware the Saucers.* p.14, Dr. B. E. Finch: *Comment on the Valensole Affair.*
FSR, March/April 1966, p.13, Dr. B. E. Finch: *Saucers and Speech;* p.32, Luis Schonherr: *The Valensole Questionnaire.*
FSR, May/June 1966, p.21, Luis Schonherr's questionnaire, with replies by Mons. G. C. and Aimé Michel (pp.22 and 24).
FSR, July/August 1966, p.5, C. Maxwell Cade: *UFOs* and *Electromagnetic Weapons.*

3 Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.44.

4 Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, p.175.

5 SBEDV Bulletin No. 45-47 (July-December 1965) p.7, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 51-53 (July-December 1966), pp.12-13.

6 FSR, January/February 1966, p.4.

7 John G. Fuller: *The Interrupted Journey.* Dial Press, New York, 1966

STRANGE OBJECT OVER FINLAND

by Elis W. Grahn

ON the night of April 11 this year, I was walking several hundred yards from my house in the town of Gamlakarleby, on the shore of Bottom Bay between Finland and Sweden. It was a bright, star-filled night without a cloud in the sky. The time was just after 10.20 p.m.

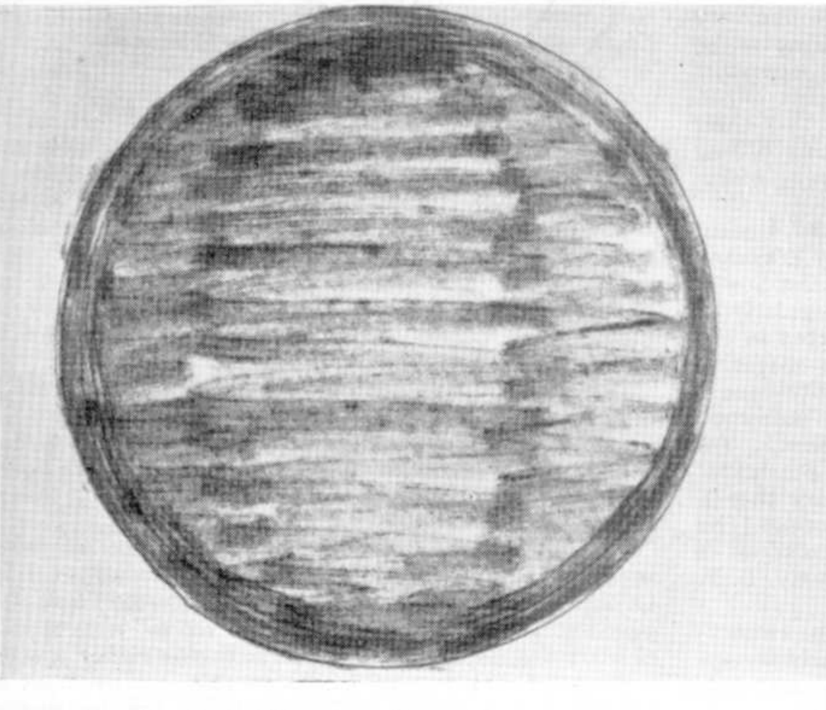
Suddenly, I had a shock. To the right of me, hanging over the woods, I saw an object just above the tree tops. It was perfectly round, as though drawn by a pair of compasses, and was motionless. In size, it was about two or three times that of the moon. Its contours were sharply defined, but what struck me most of all about the object was its beauty! The rim round the object was a warm green colour—very much like the green you can see in the Northern Lights during the coldest parts of the Scandinavian winter (what I should describe as an electric green). The rest of the object, the part inside the green rim, was red with a light colour of violet in it. (The red was again similar to the red of the Aurora Borealis, often seen here during the winter. But I have known these phenomena since my childhood, and these Northern Lights flicker and fly all over the sky, changing in colour and appearance from one second to the next. This thing was nothing like them, even if the colours were similar.)

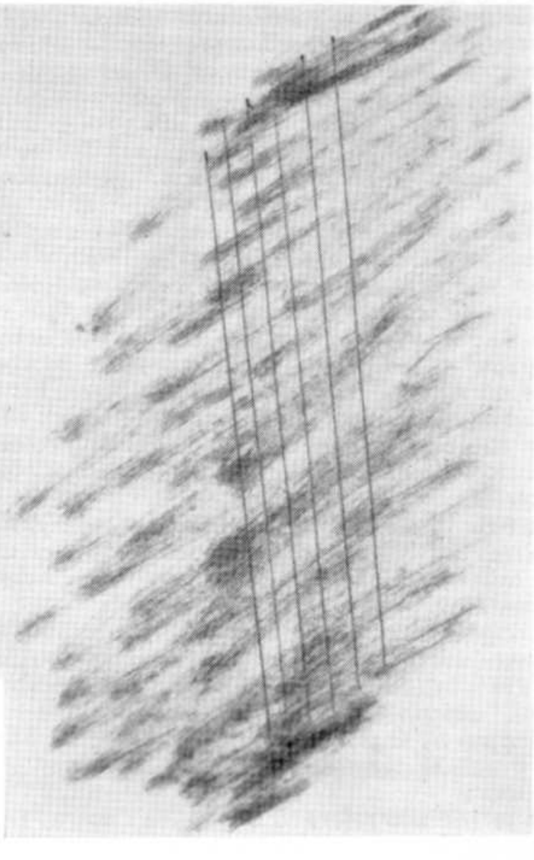
The lights of the object did not flicker or change in intensity, but retained the same brightness all the time.

For more than a minute I stood there gasping, not believing what I saw. I'd probably not be sure this very minute had it not been for two 17-year-old boys from my neighbourhood who chanced to pass by. I pointed the object out to them and they, too, stood there gasping and wondering as the object slowly turned around its axis, while retaining its position above the trees, and formed a faint greenish-white light with no red in it, losing, at the same time, its sharp contours.

As my house was not far away, I hurried home to get my field-glass and tell my wife. Together, we kept looking at the object from different vantage points. The object did not change shape any more, but, during the 35-40 minutes that we watched it, it slowly moved its position, staying at the same height but ending up about 20 degrees left of its former position. Not one sound was heard at any time, and even now, seen from what I called "the side", the light did not change or flicker but had a very steady glow against the dark sky.

Looked at through the field-glass, the object seemed a bit brighter, but very shapeless. I kept looking and trying to find some features that could indicate a solid object of some sort. And presently, I discovered a few strange facts. Through the light I was able to see the stars behind, but only vertically along the edges of the object. I could not see through the centre part of it, but neither could I see any contour or form of a body as it had looked when seen from "the front". My field-glass is a German one-eyed Carl Zeiss 18 x 50 which, although very good, is rather shaky. However, by leaning it against a wall I was able to obtain a steady





Based on sketches by the author

view of the object. This time I did not believe what I saw, since I was looking for some sort of body within the light. I changed my position several times, but each time I saw the same thing. Within the middle of the light, leaning slightly to the left, there were steady lines covering the opaque area. These were as though drawn by a very sharp pencil with a ruler, but still remaining as steady as the object. No other contours were to be seen.

At about 11.05 p.m. local time, the object seemed to disappear very slowly, but without appearing to change position. It was just "turned off"—rather like the lights in a cinema.

It was impossible to tell the altitude or distance of the object. I had the impression that it was rather far, very high and very big. When seen at first, the clear, unchanging colours gave the impression of a solid object. The later part of the sighting made me a little doubtful about this, however, though it still seemed too real to be any sort of a "natural" everyday phenomenon.

On the evening in question, there was no moon, no bright star nearby, no clouds, no fog, no dust. There are no people living in the direction of the object, which I should say was over the sea and not over land. The sea is still frozen over, so there are no ships out there, nor any people, since it is ice-breaking time and very dangerous to venture out on the sea. The temperature was minus 1—2 degrees Centigrade.

All I can say is that it was strange and beautiful, and I do hope to see it once again.

Postscript

Three days after my sighting, the Finnish newspaper, *Keskipohjanmaa*, which is the local Gamlakarleby paper, announced that a similar object had been seen in the area BUT EXACTLY 24 HOURS LATER (i.e., on April 12). Here is an extract from the newspaper:

"In the evening of Wednesday, April 12, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Granbacka were on their way home by car from Lappajärvi to Terjärv. Between Lappajärvi and Evijärvi there suddenly appeared in front of the car in the dark, clear sky in a North-East direction a round, red-glowing object 'big, about moon-sized' with a green rim. Mrs. Granbacka had just told her husband that the time was 10.35 p.m. according to her watch. They stepped out of their car and watched the object. Slowly, while keeping its position, it turned to a whitish glowing cloud standing on top with the red colour not visible any more. The 'cloud' was visible very clearly even after they had reached home. It stayed in the same position all the time."

This place is about 40 miles South-East of the place where I live and sighted the same thing, but according to the newspaper it was also seen by many people in Vateli, which is about 10 miles North-East of Evijärvi, so the object must have been very huge and very high.

НЛО—ЧТО ЭТО ТАКОЕ

AT LONG LAST the Russians have announced to the world that they too are interested in UFOs. Not so very long ago their official verdict was that UFOs did not exist other than in the imaginations of bourgeois, imperialist capitalists beset by war hysteria—or words to that effect. We know they have their share of sightings and that their attitude has been changing. Now they are writing openly about "unrecognised flying objects," *Neopoznannye Letayushchie Ob"ekty*, N.L.O. for short.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has been aware of the Russian interest for more than four years. In 1963, when Waveney Girvan was editor, we received a request from the Soviet Academy of Sciences that the REVIEW be sent regularly to them. The influence of the REVIEW may be detected in the paragraphs of an article which appeared in the magazine *Smena* on April 7, 1967. Gordon Creighton has provided a translation of this most interesting piece, which was published under the signature of an Academician, Professor F. Yu. Zigel. It was entitled *Tayny XX Veka. NLO—Chto Eto Takoe?* (Mysteries of the XXth Century. UFOs—What are they?). The article is one of a series entitled *Naselenyy Kosmos* (The Inhabited Universe), and the editor-in-chief of the series is none other than the Vice-President of the Academy, B. P. Konstantinov.

Dr. Zigel quotes a number of cases throughout the twenty-odd years' current history of our subject, particularly several from 1965, including the well-known Canberra Airport case and the "difficulties with the Mariner IV signals". It is noticeable, however, that no reference is made to Russian cases, apart from a brief mention that they have been picked up on radar there.

The author also refers to Dr. Vallée's books, and his views on the possibility that UFOs could be of extraterrestrial origin, and he quotes from Dr. Hynek's Foreword to Vallée's *Challenge to Science*. He also mentions Vallée's visit to Moscow in 1966 for the International Congress of Mathematicians.

Dr. Zigel discusses five possible explanations for UFOs—

(1) The convenient idea that flying saucers and other UFOs are nonsense, or hoaxes; convenient because the idea calls for no intellectual effort, and kills the problem at the outset. However, says Zigel, there is a small measure of truth in it when one looks at claims like Adamski's, and hoax photographs.

(2) UFOs are misidentifications of known natural phenomena, a viewpoint zealously propounded by Dr. D. Menzel, and others. Menzel's reasoning is found unconvincing.

(3) UFOs are new secret flying machines of a great power —a ridiculous theory, according to the author.

(4) UFOs are an unknown phenomenon of nature. Zigel is none too happy with the plasma theory, but he points out that unknown phenomena are more numerous than those known to, and studied by, men.

(5) UFOs are machines of extraterrestrials who are studying the Earth. An extreme point of view, but, since the UFO problem is not yet solved, even extreme viewpoints are possible. The correlation of certain "waves" with oppositions of Mars are noted, but Zigel says this is rather speculative.

All in all, this is a very considerable improvement on the assertion that UFOs are figments of the imagination of bourgeois capitalists dominated by war nerves. We will follow, as soon as possible, with an article bringing up to date the picture of what the Soviets are saying.

C.B.

ESSEX REVISITED

by Alan Watts, B.Sc., F.R.Met.S.

ONE of the significant features of UFO phenomena is the fact that they never seem to repeat.

A sighting occurs over a certain locality and there is no prospect of predicting that another will appear over the same locality. Even if there is another it is usually so different from the previous one that there seems to be no correlation between them. This unrepeatability is one of the most potent weapons of destruction for those who wish to damn the whole subject. On the other hand it is excellent evidence for those who by logical deduction are certain that the genuine UFO is an extra-terrestrial space-craft of some kind. Given the whole of Earth to approach in three dimensions, day and night, clouded and part-clouded with the urbanisation of life making more and more people look down rather than up, the UFO is bound to appear as a random phenomenon.

Occasionally a ufocus such as that near Warminster does provide at least a greater chance of seeing a UFO, but when an isolated but very well documented incident occurs in one spot and then almost exactly five years later to the day another well observed and reported incident occurs over the very same spot, then this is something almost unique.

So first let me describe the second of these events, that of the morning of Friday, July 1, 1966. The first I knew of anything odd was when I was rung up at about 08.20 (all times B.S.T.) by the College keeper of the Technical College at Colchester where I lecture in physics. "Had I seen the shining object over the Hilly Fields?" The Hilly Fields are an open space to the west of the College building and given over to cattle, broom and birds. The object had been there for fully an hour, he said, and had not moved as far as they could tell. They were all watching it down there.

It did not take long to locate the object high in the western sky. It was bright and silver and shone. There seemed to be at one time an orange glow on the top part. It looked as if it were slowly revolving. By naked eye it looked at times like two objects one above the other but closely coupled. The upper one gave the impression of roundness while the lower part seemed fuzzy. My thoughts turned to one of the cosmic-ray research balloons that are sometimes flown from Cardington (Beds) by Bristol University and Imperial College. It had that sort of look and the fact that I thought so and then changed my mind is significant.

Anyway, having been caught before, I got a parallel rule and began to make chinagraph marks on my west-facing upper window pane and to write times under them. From these I was able to confirm a very slow drift of the object to the right, i.e. with north-going components. At about 08.45 it disappeared—the College observers lost it at the same time or nearly so.

With my own line of sight carefully measured and by independent measurement from witnesses at the College we were able to get two lines of sight and their elevations. The line joining my own home in Elmstead Market to the object passed almost exactly through the College. Hence we had a baseline of 4·7 miles between home and College and two elevations. It was simple to calculate that the object was most probably 15-17 miles away on a bearing of 280 degrees True, and 8-9 miles aloft, i.e. at about 40,000-45,000ft. up. (Fig. 1).

When I plotted these observations on the map I was astonished. The object had stood so high in the sky that I hadn't thought of it being in the same area as the one we had seen at 21.30 on the evening of June 30, 1961—but it was.* The sketch map shows the most probable positions on the two occasions which were separated by five years and just 11 hours.

Could it have been a balloon, however? There was

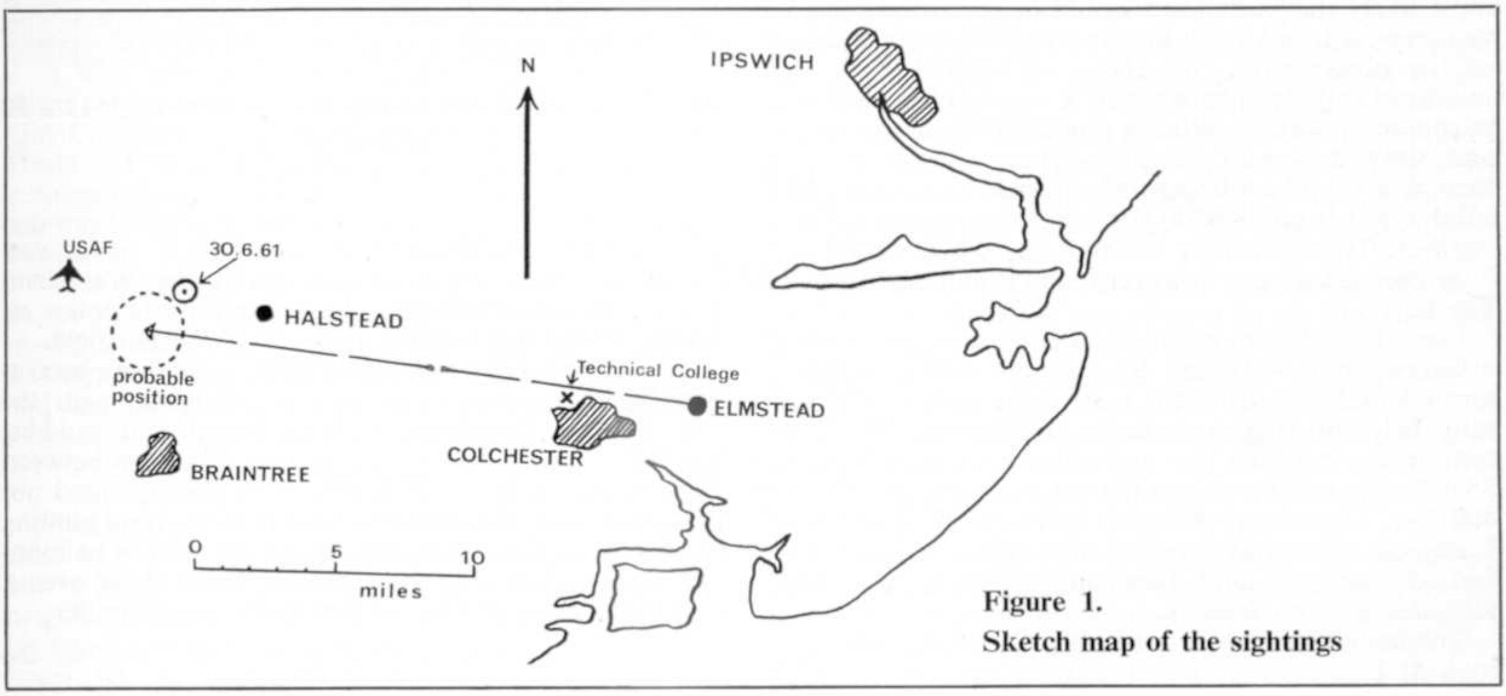


Figure 1.
Sketch map of the sightings

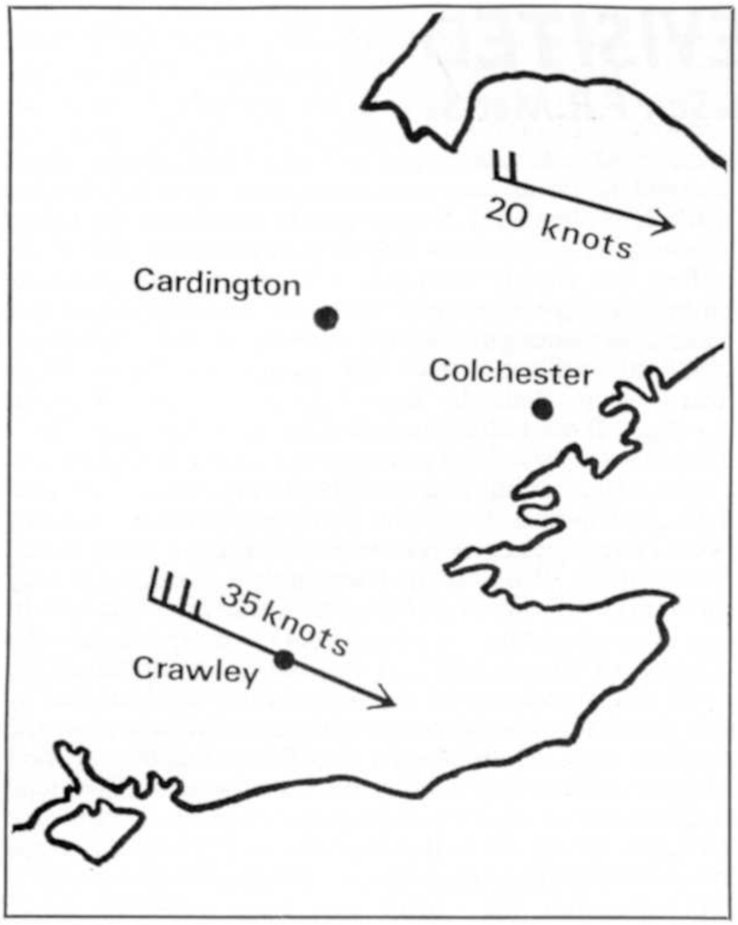


Fig. 2. Guide to area and wind directions

an easy way to check. The upper winds at the most probable altitude at Hemsby and Crawley (Fig. 2) both gave between 20 and 35 knots from 280-300 degrees and made it pretty certain that the wind at the object was from around 290 degrees 25 knots. Should the object have been 10,000 feet higher then the winds would have been lighter by some 10 knots. So it was most likely that a balloon would have drifted towards us some 30 to 40 miles during the total hour and half of the observation. Yet those who watched it with buildings to judge against said it was to all intents and purposes stationary. When I plotted its later movement and showed it had northward components of drift then this would be impossible against observations of solid winds from 280-300 degrees made by two reliable stations. This convinces me that the object could not have been a balloon, however much it may have looked like it.

Next I made an estimate of size. I independently asked several witnesses to estimate on a ruler at arm's length the apparent size of the object. They all said between two and three millimetres. With 60 centimetres between eye and ruler and scaling up to 15 miles distant this gives a diameter of between 250 and 400 feet. Cosmic-ray research balloons of upwards of 1 million cubic feet capacity will inflate to 100 or so feet in diameter, and then only when at operating altitudes above 50,000ft.

The balloon theory is untenable, therefore, so we can look at Fig. 3 which is a sketch by an observer with 12 x 50 binoculars. It looks like a balloon but it couldn't be. In any case when I phoned to check I found that Cardington had not flown a balloon at that time.

Then there was the certain observation of two of the night staff of the Technical College who said that while they watched, a star-like object, much smaller than the stationary one, left the latter and shot off at high speed in a south-easterly direction. They were quite certain of this.

So what was this thing? Whatever it was it maintained its position in space for a long time except for a certain drifting about against winds which would certainly have swept a balloon much nearer the observers if not actually past them.

My own hunch is that this was another of the vast carrier craft which drop into our atmosphere from time to time to despatch scout saucers on unknown missions, one of which *was* observed. The fact that it so resembled a sky-hook balloon may be chance or design and makes the re-assessment of other presumed balloon observations worth consideration. In any case it was a vast object and was observed also from the Wattisham R.A.F. Base. Knowing the U.S. Air Force's policy on UFOs, I did not trouble to contact Wethersfield.

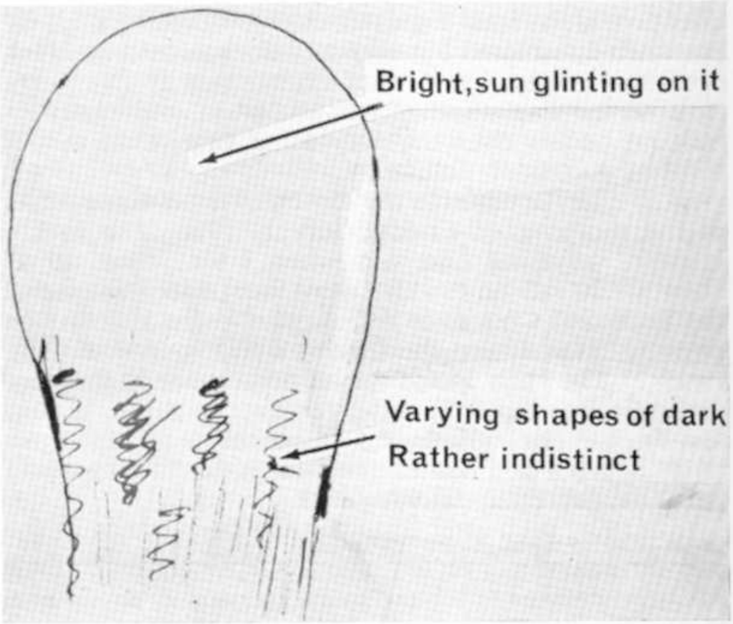


Fig. 3. Rough sketch of object as seen through 12 x 50 binoculars

To me the most significant feature of this observation is its position and timing compared with the 1961 sighting. Coincidence? Well, I suppose it could be, but if I'm still in this locality at that time then between June 30 and July 2, 1971, I shall be disappointed not to see another unidentified flying object sitting glinting in the mid-summer sun, defying all the laws of ballooning, and maintaining its position once again over a seemingly favourite bit of the Essex countryside.

* FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September/October 1961, p.28. See also LUFORO BULLETIN, January/February 1962, p.13.

FANTASY or TRUTH?

A new look at an old contact claim

by Charles Bowen

NOW that we have had time to study the A. Villas Boas case, which FLYING SAUCER REVIEW first brought to the attention of the English-speaking world[1], the Barney and Betty Hill case[2], and many others, I feel it is time we took another look at a little-known case of 1951.

The story was first told in the pages of *The Citizen* of Prince George, British Columbia, and later appeared in abbreviated form in W. Gordon Allen's book *Spacecraft from beyond Three Dimensions*[3]. I am deeply grateful to Dr. P. M. H. Edwards of Victoria, B.C., for sending me a copy of the article from *The Citizen*.

One day in December, 1957, a resident of Prince George walked into the offices of *The Citizen* and said that he had an unusual story to tell, that he had to unburden himself, and that he was well aware that he might be thought crazy. It is our good fortune that the Editor of *The Citizen*, whatever his feelings, decided to publish the story.

The article appeared in the edition of Wednesday, December 11, 1957, and was written by staff writer Ron Powell who interviewed the man. The man's request that his name should not be revealed was respected.

Mr. Powell commented that at first he was completely sceptical, but suddenly realised that only a few years before, even the idea of sputniks circling the Earth would have been considered ridiculous. Nevertheless he attempted to catch the man out on a number of minor points—and failed—as well as looking for every possible loophole. Had Mr. Powell known then what we know now, he would have been even more amazed.

Here is the man's story, told in his own words:

"I was working for the United States Occupation Army in Austria. On May 15, 1951, I was driving for QM Colonel Cousin. He commanded me to drive Mr. Haste to Linz from Salzburg. Mr. Haste was teaching evening classes to United States soldiers in Linz. My job was to drive him from Salzburg to Linz three times a week.

"This particular day I came back as usual from Linz at about 11 o'clock at night and arrived at the motor pool five miles north of Salzburg. I started for home, leaving the car at the motor pool. I took a short cut, and on the left side was brush. It was dark, with no moon.

Abducted

"Suddenly someone came out of the brush and came close to me. I could only see the outline in the dark, but he seemed to have a helmet on. He was about my height, maybe a little shorter. He had something in his hand and he pointed it at me. I thought it was his finger, but it made a 'click'.

"After the click he waved his hand quickly and I went to put my arm up in front of my face but I was paralyzed. I felt like falling down, but I didn't. He put a black square plate on my chest and strapped it around my back. I could hear a dog barking in the distance, but I couldn't hear him walking. He must have walked very easily. I could see his outline as he walked around me.

"After he strapped the plate on me he walked in front of me, and pointed the thing in his hand at the plate on my chest rather than at my head like before. He walked away and pulled me after him. I couldn't move or walk, but he just pulled me along after him. I wasn't actually in the air, but my full weight wasn't on the ground. It seemed as if I was light.

"Behind the brush was a small field. In the field, hidden from the road, was a round object about 150ft. in diameter. It was dark, and I couldn't tell what it was. My first thought was that a spy had captured me for some reason.

"The thing that led me sort of rose from the ground and took me after him to the top of the object. He did something, either stepped on something or pushed some button, and a door opened and he pulled me after him down into the dark. I was plenty scared and I wondered what would happen next. I got down into the dark and I could finally feel a floor under my feet.

"I knew that where I was was either glass or plastic, because the stars could be seen shining up above. Then I saw the outline of what looked like a door, and he pulled me through into what I later found was a room of glass or plastic.

"He kept his finger, or what I thought was his finger but later saw was some form of pencil-shaped object, pointed at me until I was inside the room. He kept it pointed at me all the time, then when I was in the room he took it off me and I sank down to the floor. He went out and I could see his outline. There was a sort of shaking sensation, and I knew the door to the room had shut.

"The next sensation I had was a sensation of rising up into the air. I had never flown in my life. In a few minutes I could see the left half of the moon shining. I was scared, but I figured I was dreaming. Then I started to feel my hands and feet again. I sat up, and then I got up on to my feet. By this time we were in the sunlight.

The creature

"I looked across the ship and I could see the person that had brought me there. He was standing over by the wall, and there were some levers there. He looked like a person, like we are. A little bit shorter than me.

"To me at that time he looked like a devil. He had

no hair at all. I could see through the sort of glass helmet. His head was sort of cylinder form. A very high forehead, with big eyes. You could see lots of little eyes in the two big eyes. It seemed to me it looked like the eyes of a fly. No nose at all, just two holes. He had a very small slit for a mouth. It looked like he had skin, it was sort of white. There were two holes for the ears. His skull was very large.

"The torso was round kind of like a tin can. The legs were of proportionate length. His arms were a little bit shorter than our arms, I would say. His hands seemed to be three long fingers. I couldn't see any neck, but he was wearing material that was like silver but wasn't shiny. This covered all of him except the head part which had on the helmet. He didn't look at me at all.

"The main part of the ship that I could see from the room I was in appeared to be round and the walls were like glass, but you couldn't see through them. The floor was made of glass or plastic. In the middle of the floor, under the glass, was a black plate, something like I had strapped on my chest. From the corners of the plate, which looked to be about ten feet square, black beams ran to the walls of the ship.

"I could see under the black plate and there seemed to be a duplicate room on the other side of the ship. I could see the same kind of levers on the wall as the Thing was standing beside.

"As soon as we came out in the sun, I could feel burning heat, but he pulled a lever, and a covering like blue water came over the roof. Then the sun was normal, but I could still see through it.

"My first thought was that I was dreaming, and then my second thought was that I was dead and that my soul was rising up.

The Moon

"The ship was not rotating or going sideways, but kind of gliding straight up. I could see the Sun like a ball of fire, and the Moon was like a silver ball, but the rest was darkness. Suddenly, as I looked up, the Moon was right above us and it seemed to come down at us. Suddenly we were both standing on what had been the roof. We seemed to be about a quarter of a mile above the Moon.

"I could see clearly the craters on the surface of the Moon. There were lots of them. The ground seemed to be a greyish colour, and I could see rocks and hills. We were in the sunny part of the Moon. The ship glided to the right and into the darkness.

"Then the driver stopped the ship. I could feel it sort of waiting. It was dark all around outside, but the sun seemed to shine into the ship. I saw the Thing take one of the pencil things that he had pointed at me, and he pointed it downwards. I thought at that time that he must be from the Moon and that he was signalling someone down below.

"There was no noise from the ship or from the signal. After about five minutes we started to move again to the right. My first thought was that I'm going back to Earth. But I could see the outline of America and Asia, and I could see clouds.

"The Earth and the Moon were going away from me very fast. Then I began to think that this was from another planet.

Mars

"Suddenly another planet seemed to loom up in front of us, and I thought we were going to crash into it. I was sure of this but the driver suddenly stopped it again, but there was no jerk. I realised then we were still quite a way from the planet, and then we started to glide sideways down towards the ground.

"I looked out over the land and it looked like paradise.

"As we went down I looked over the land, and on one side there were red fields. On the other side there were what looked like grey-green fields. Some places in the fields were what looked like big chimneys rising from the ground. It was bright daylight and the sun was shining with no clouds in the sky.

"We were approaching the red fields and I could see rivers with blue water in them. The rivers ran straight and at intervals there were bridges built across them and I could see roads. The bridges were just like our bridges.

"From up high I could see no sign of life.

"Then we glided to a field that was filled with the saucers like I was in. There appeared to be hundreds of them. They were of different colours, grey, gold and silver. But there were no black or red ones.

"The driver stopped the ship about a quarter of a mile above them by just pulling a lever. Then we went straight down until we were about 20 or 30 feet from the ground, and he parked the ship on a high platform.

"As we went down I could see the same kind of people were in them like my driver.

"When we got on the platform the driver pulled a lever and the glass slid back, and he went outside. He put the pencil-like thing to his chest and slowly dropped to the ground like a falling leaf. He then started to walk very fast along to the third or fourth saucer. He pointed the pencil at his chest again and sort of jumped up inside the ship. He was inside that ship for about 10 minutes. I could see that the Thing in the other ship was smaller than the driver of the ship I was on.

"While he was inside the ship I looked around at the other saucers and I could see the same type of people.

"Suddenly, quite a way away I saw two ships that had people from Earth on them. One ship was sort of dirty looking and there was one man, one woman, and two kids in it. In another saucer nearby that was kind of golden I saw one man and one woman.

"I was going to wave at them but I felt scared. I was waiting for them to wave but they didn't wave. After I saw them I thought that I would have to stay here with them now.

"Way off in the distance by the river I could see things moving. They were dark, but I couldn't tell what they were. Maybe they looked like a herd of beef, but I couldn't tell for sure.

"Down on the ground I could see big red flowers growing. They looked something like our sunflowers. There were some green patches between them, but there were the flowers as far as the eye could see. The earth could be seen in patches too and it was just the same as our earth.

"I got to thinking that I must be on Mars. I remembered what I had learned in school about it

being red, with canals, and it seemed to me that this must be Mars, although I wasn't 100 per cent sure because I kind of lost location of things when we had left the Moon.

"Then the driver of the ship came back from the other ship. He got back inside and closed the door again. Then we took off the same way we had come. We went up and up into the darkness and then I could see a moon that looked like a tin ball. We came quite close to it, and I could see it was smooth and silvery, without any signs of craters on it.

Return

"I didn't know where we were going then. I thought we might be going farther yet. After about ten minutes, I could see what looked like half our Moon and I realised we were approaching the sunny side of Earth.

"I was very glad to see that it was the Earth. But we came at it with such a terrible speed that I thought for sure we would crash. The driver stopped the ship again when it seemed we hit the atmosphere, and he glided down towards Earth. I seemed to know he was going to take me back to where he found me, but I had the impression that he was going to kill me because he would want to keep it secret.

"We came into the darkness and then went down to the ground and I knew we were back at the same place he picked me up.

"I was really afraid he would kill me. He opened the door and took the small pencil thing and pulled me out the door the same way he pulled me in. He guided me right back to the road. At that time I could walk, but I was very light and he was just pulling me.

"He took the pencil from my chest and pointed it at my head. At that moment a dog started to back at us from about a quarter of a mile up the road and it seemed to have startled him, because the pencil-thing clicked and nothing happened to me.

"I knew from the first experience I should be paralyzed, so I just pretended to be so that he wouldn't know. He took the plate off my chest and went back to the ship.

"I stayed the way I was until I saw the outline of the saucer going off into the distance. Then I ran home.

"My wife was still up and she saw me all excited. She asked what had happened and I told her: "Nothing. I'm just sick.'

"I couldn't tell her about the experience because she would have thought I was completely crazy. I noticed the time when I got home and it was 12.20 a.m. The whole trip had taken about an hour. I think when the Thing pointed the pencil at my head it was to make me forget what had happened, or else to kill me, I don't know which.

"I have never told anyone else about this for two reasons. First, no one would ever believe me, and they would want to lock me up as a crazy man. Second, I am sure those people on Mars know everything that is happening here, and if I had told people about it before they would have taken me away again, or killed me.

"I'm telling this now in order to help people to know what is going on in space. My heart is bothering me now, and I feel I won't be living too much longer, so I have nothing to fear from those Martian people.

"From this experience I've had, I feel those people's culture and scientific knowledge is much ahead of ours. They don't need satellites to launch their spaceships and they have conquered many of the problems of space we are trying to conquer. They seem to power their ships with rays, maybe light rays, but it's not with motors like ours.

"My experience and seeing those other Earth people on that planet show me those creatures have a great knowledge of the people here and are much ahead of us. This creature treated me only as an animal.

"After that incident I couldn't stay in that country, and in October of that year I came out to Canada. I have finally felt I want to make this story public.

"With two satellites up circling the globe now, maybe a few more people will believe my story. Anyway, I have told you it just as I remember it happening —and it is as clear as yesterday."

Comment

I first encountered this remarkable piece several years ago, and my immediate reaction was to reach for a very large pinch of salt. I remember the fleeting, facetious pictures that were conjured up when I imagined the kind of reception the "driver" got from his fly-eyed chief: "Take it back, you idiot; you've forgotten its mate," or, "It's no good to us; it's far too hairy." It was easy, too, to imagine a meeting with the Salzburg space traveller: "Mr. 'X', I presume. Tell me, sir, was your journey really necessary?"

But time passed, and the evidence of other cases came trickling in, and made me think once again about the Austrian claim. What if there were truth in the seeming fantasy, even if the journey wasn't necessary in terms we understand?

Gordon Creighton and I have often discussed this case, our interest renewed by the advent of the full Barney Hill story with its description of induced amnesia. Now, in 1967, the very pointlessness of the alleged trip[4], Mr. "X's" description of various features and his final suggestion that the "driver" may have intended to blot the memory of the journey from his mind, all combine to commend the case for further attention.

I confess I was surprised when a down-to-earth, reliable engineer should stop to ponder a contact claim of this type, but that is what happened when we showed the story to Bryan Winder. He remarked that the piece about the "driver" and passenger finding themselves standing on the ceiling "stuck in his craw", but he found the description of the "blue water" sun shield of great interest. For my part, I cringed at the sudden use of the word "saucer" after the vehicle had been described earlier as an "object" or a "ship". Again, shoulders shrugged at the mention of "straight rivers", for surely, if the much observed and recently photographed "canali"[5] are waterways, then would they not be enormously wide channels? The notion too that such advanced beings should need "bridges" seemed rather odd, and the comment "They don't need satellites to launch their spaceships" betrays a knowledge by Mr. "X" of contemporary speculative writing on space exploration.

But . . . and there are more than a few "buts" to consider!

Mr. "X" told his story at a time when "bleeps" from the first sputniks were cocking snooks at the then recently-appointed Astronomer Royal.[6] I doubt whether the success of the earliest space probes, or the possible discomfiture of the Astronomer Royal, could have prompted the invention of such a story. However, if the story was pure invention, then the hoaxer had little in the way of saucer-landing literature on which to lean. True, the first two Adamski books had been best-sellers, but the driver of the Salzburg-Mars express hardly fits into the category of "noble Venusian", and there isn't a hint of conversation, either audible or telepathic, let alone of a "message". For the rest, there were still two months to go before A. Villas Boas was to emerge from his Brazilian backwoods to tell Dr. Olavo Fontes of his clandestine affair with a slit-mouthed "lady"; six years before Dr. Simon released the image of slit-mouthed beings from Barney Hill's subconscious; eight years before a slit-mouthed creature pointed an instrument at M. Masse and "paralyzed" him. So Mr. "X" could not have acquired the idea of the slit mouth from any of these accounts, and it is extremely unlikely that Villas Boas or Masse read the item in *The Citizen* of Prince George, B.C.

In other respects the alleged kidnapper bore no resemblance to the beings encountered by Villas Boas, the Hills, or M. Masse. He may have been somewhat akin to Jose Higgins's goggle-eyed beings[7] but neither they, nor the entities reported in any other case I can recall, had eyes with facets, "like a fly".

There may have been instances of creatures reported who had holes in place of a nose, and it seems that the one-eyed "man" of Belo Horizonte[8] had no ear flaps.

The children at Prémanon[9] spoke of a robot-like, tinny (sugar-lump shaped) creature, and the victim in the Cisco Grove case [10] claims that he had a rough time at the hands of robot-type entities.

The physical features of the "driver" which finally call for comment are the hands. Once again, these seem to be something new. The little creatures of Villa Santina[11] supposedly had sets of opposing fingers. At Scorriton it was "four fingers only, no thumb".[12]

All in all, the creature who appeared near Salzburg seems to have been yet another specimen for the mixed bag of flying saucer entities.

Other features in this extraordinary story call for comment. One is the suggested neutralisation of gravitational pull. Either the victim really was floating along, or he could have been light-headed due to the effect of the instrument aimed at him. Then there is the mention that the sky in space was dark, although the Sun "seemed to shine into the ship". Although astronomers had postulated that the sky in space would be dark, nobody had been up there at that time to confirm the idea.

There is also the speculation that the craft was powered by light rays. Sid Padrick, who claimed a contact in California on January 30, 1965, said he learned that the craft he encountered "was not propelled by its own power source, but rather through a power transmitted on a light beam . . ."

The one really staggering part of the whole story is the mention of a "moon that looked like a tin ball . . . smooth and silvery, without any signs of craters on it." The implication is that this was one of the moons of Mars, either Phobos or Deimos. Dr. I. Shklovskiy only announced his theory that the Martian satellites are artificial—hollow inside and constructed largely of aluminium and magnesium—on May 1, 1959. This announcement was made to the Soviet Academy of Sciences.[13]

If true, two other details are somewhat alarming. The first of these is the claim that Earth people were seen, and that they did not acknowledge the presence of Mr. "X". Implicit in this is the idea that they were under some form of mental influence or control. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW published an account in *The Humanoids*[14] of Mexican students who claimed to have been taken for a similar ride, and who said they had seen a Brazilian family which had been abducted.

The second detail is that the claimant makes no mention of any attempt at communication, and states that he was treated like an animal. This he underlined by saying: "He didn't look at me at all", but with eyes like a fly's he probably didn't *need* to look directly at Mr. "X".

It is still difficult to believe that this story could be true, but if it is just fantasy, then it must be agreed that the author possessed not only a fertile mind, but also a touch of the prophet.

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3. See pages 137/138 *Spacecraft from beyond Three Dimensions:* Exposition Press, New York, 1959.
4. *The Humanoids:* FSR October/November 1966 special issue: see editorial article in which I state that it is the strangeness and often the very pointlessness of the activities of the reported creatures that commends the accounts to us.
5. Evans, G. H. *Image Orthicon Photographs of Martian Canals:* FSR, Vol. 12, No. 4, July/August 1966.
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8. Creighton, G. *The "Humanoids" in Latin America:* Case No. 30.
9. Michel, A. *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery:* Criterion Books. This famous case of September 27, 1954, is also given in some detail by J. and J. Vallée in *Challenge to Science:* H. Regnery, Chicago.
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We are reprinting The Humanoids see page ii cover

A LONG, COOL LOOK AT ALIEN INTELLIGENCES

Part III — Modes of Communication

by C. Maxwell Cade

WE have considered three types of intelligent organism which might exist in other parts of the universe, and now we must consider the means which would have to be employed in order to enable such alien intelligences to communicate with us. There are three principal ways in which communication can take place: (i), Direct Visitation; (ii), Remote Communications; (iii), Ambassadorial Liaison. Any of these means of communication might be employed by any of the three types of intelligence which we have considered.

Direct Visitation

We may begin by noting that alleged sightings have reported entities which could be any of the types of intelligent organism previously discussed. Among the thousands of fresh reports every year there are plenty of humanoid and semi-humanoid species; many others that might be described as humanoid robots (although it is difficult to see what advantage a machine is given by humanoid form), and also there are things like a "Will-o-the-Wisp", "Meteor-like appearances", and "Balls of Fire". All of these could be Plasma Intelligences.

As for the means of transportation, we will try to simplify matters a little by discarding *ab initio* such transcendental devices of science fiction as automatic dematerialisation and re-materialisation by some kind of "ray"; "doors" through some hypothetical "dimensional continuum" which provide a short-cut to the Solar System, and "Hyper-drives" which permit velocities without limit in defiance of General Relativity. The distant entities (whether they use their own bodies as spaceships or employ separate vehicles for this purpose) are now limited by the velocity of light, and, perhaps even more severely, by problems of the strain imposed by acceleration and deceleration. It is also possible that, as with human astronauts, further limitations are set by the need to minimise sensory deprivation and even social deprivation. The probability of visits from communities situated at more than a few hundred light-years from Earth becomes very small indeed under these conditions. Even a visit from our own galactic centre, and assuming so high a velocity as an average, for both outward and return journeys, of 0·5 of the velocity of light (about 335 million miles per hour), would require a voyage of some 100,000 years' duration—a lifetime of an entirely different order from that of any machine which our technology can conceive, let alone that of a biological organism.

It would be an unwarrantable dogmatism to assert that such voyages will always be impossible, but they are so highly improbable as scarcely to justify speculation. In the light of present-day science and technology it seems very unlikely that it will ever be possible for man to visit worlds more than a few light-years distant, or for man-made machines to visit worlds at more than a few tens of light-years—unless on a one-way ticket. The question then arises, "What is the prospect for finding or being found by Advanced Communities situated within a few light-years distance from Earth?" The answer is clearly related to the time for which such communities generally endure, as well as to the spatial density of habitable planets, and we have insufficient evidence to hazard more than a wild guess. What is certain is that, assuming habitable planets to be more or less uniformly distributed throughout the universe, the farther out one can travel the more there will be. In fact, the number must be proportional to the cube of the maximum range. However, for communication between communities there is no necessity for personal visits, and vastly greater possibilities are opened up by the various known forms of electromagnetic signalling.

Remote communications

Project Ozma was the name given to an attempt made by Dr. Drake of the national Radio Astronomy Observatory, West Virginia, to detect any intelligent signals which might be coming to the Earth from nearby stars. The name of the project came from Queen Ozma, the story-book queen of the wonderful land of Oz, which (according to the story) was very, very far away, very difficult to reach, and full of wonderful and delightful things. The stars chosen were the solar-type stars, Tau Ceti in the Constellation of Cetus (the Whale) and Epsilon Eridani in the constellation Eridanus (a mythical river). An 85-foot radio-telescope fitted with the very latest receiving apparatus was prepared for this experiment, but the project was terminated after only 150 hours of observation (in May, 1961), without any signals having been detected. Calculations made before the experiment was commenced has suggested that, for the known distance of about 10·5 light-years, and a receiver the size of the Jodrell Bank telescope, a transmitted power of 160 megawatts per megacycle bandwidth would suffice. It was hoped that the alien intelligences might have much more powerful transmitters, but if so, they were pointing in some other direction.

Radio equipment is still developing fairly rapidly, and so are techniques for improving the signal-to-noise ratio, which is what really determines how intelligible

a signal will be when it has travelled a vast distance. Lasers, too, now offer hope of many light-years range, although they are less suitable for interstellar communication because they have always to be picked out from the glare of the local sun. It is a simple matter to produce radio sources which are many thousands of times "brighter" than the local star at the same wavelength. Probably the best wavelength to use is 21 centimetres, because it is the wavelength radiated by interstellar hydrogen, and being of great interest to radio astronomers it is highly probable that close attention will be given to this particular wavelength by intelligent entities anywhere in the universe.

The problem of how to carry on a two-way exchange of information is too complex to be entered into here (it is dealt with fully in OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS), but there are various schemes which seem quite capable of overcoming the obvious difficulties, and the only really difficult problem is that of transmitting information at any appreciable speed. There are two aspects of this problem; the first is that by reducing the number of "bits" of information transmitted in unit time it is much easier to get a good signal-to-noise ratio, and thus maximise range; the second is that, for anything like a conversation, there is the enormous interval while we wait for the message to reach the distant star, and then wait again for the reply. Even the planets of Tau Ceti or Epsilon Eridani, the nearest stars which seem likely to be able to support life, require twenty-one years for a simple question and answer. With planets at still greater distances the situation becomes quite ludicrous. All that one can do is to transmit an account of one's own civilisation, and hope that one's opposite number will respond in a similar manner. By far the most likely form of contact between races (in my opinion) is by means of space probes analogous (but vastly superior) to our own Venus and Mars exploratory vehicles. Even if the distant community is some sort of assemblage of mechanical intelligences, or a single computer, it is more likely to depute the job of exploring distant systems to lesser machines than to undertake the journey itself. For one reason, lesser machines can be proliferated, launched in all directions, and the exploration of many solar systems and their planets undertaken simultaneously, whilst the central intelligence sifts the reports as they come in.

Ambassadorial Liaison

The NASA organisation in the U.S.A. is already working on plans for extremely sophisticated Mars exploratory vehicles, intended to be launched within the next five years. Those vehicles are intended to put 1800 lb. satellites into orbit around Mars whilst a 2000 lb. capsule full of instrumentation is landed. Later vehicles are intended to fly-past whilst landing capsules of up to 6000 lbs. The orbiting satellites will carry television equipment for mapping the planetary surface, together with other apparatus for monitoring atmospheric changes. The landed capsules will be equipped with complex laboratories capable of analysing soil samples for evidence of life. Such problems of instrumentation are far more difficult than those needed to send simple probes to other stars, and engineering studies have already been made to find out the feasibility of such interstellar voyages in terms of cost and known methods of space propulsion.

If we accept the probability of innumerable other habitable worlds in the universe, many of them vastly older than our own Earth, then we must clearly accept the probability of other communities having developed interstellar probes unthinkably more advanced than anything which we can possibly imagine. We can reason that fleets of such probes would be sent out, each of which, after its long voyage through interstellar space, would take up an orbit in a planetary system and would "listen-out" for radio signals which might indicate the presence of an intelligent community. When signals were received, the probes would repeat them in the form of a delayed echo, which would show the intelligent race that they had visitors—either intelligent themselves or the product of superior intelligences. Subsequently the probes would store up data for eventual slow transmission (remember, slow transmission gives the maximum range for a given power) back to their home system, perhaps using relay stations which they had set up on the outward voyage.

Have we any evidence for anything like this? Perhaps so. Almost forty years ago, Stormer and van der Pol, both distinguished engineers in the relatively new field of radio, reported powerful and long-delayed echoes from radio stations—echoes for which there was at the time no explanation at all. Today, apparatus capable of producing such echoes is familiar to all microwave engineers. Military aircraft are equipped with apparatus which listens-out for enemy radars, copies their characteristics, amplifies the interrogating signals, distorts them suitably, and re-radiates them so that they are interpreted by the interrogating station as echoes from a much more distant target in a totally different direction.

Space-probes could use similar equipment, not with a view to military deception, but as a simple statement which says, "Here I am; I can analyse and copy your signals, so you see I have logic and a memory. Please send further data." Perhaps Stormer and van der Pol missed just such an opportunity, and the visiting probes went on to other planetary systems, having reported to their base that our radio signals were senseless jumbles—perhaps some kind of natural radiation, like that from Venus or Jupiter. This brings us to another interesting possibility, that the emissions from these planets are quasi-natural, that is to say, they are caused by something like artificial control of weather, and have been given permanence and form by the artifice of intelligent beings. Visiting space probes which found evidence of communities which were just emerging from savagery and starting the long struggle towards technological control of environment, might set up "repeater stations", hoping that when the local race was intelligent enough it would decode the messages and reply. It is quite possible that various phenomena which we accept as entirely "natural" are in fact artificially induced. The radio emanations from Jupiter are very peculiar indeed: far from being incoherent outbursts of radio energy distributed isotropically, they occur as well-defined

"beams" of frequency-modulated waves, much more like a "radio lighthouse" than a natural noise-source. The modulation of the waves, particularly in the region of 10 metres wavelength, is apparently controlled by the position of the third largest satellite, Io. The bursts of radio signals only occur when Io is 90 or 240 degrees from superior conjunction. To complicate matters still more, the rotation of Jupiter itself also enters into the mechanism. The magnetic axis of the Giant Planet is highly eccentric, and as Jupiter rotates the tilt of its magnetic axis is in the direction of Io every 13 hours or so. At 60 degrees before the magnetic axis overtakes the satellite, Jupiter begins to emit radio signals in a direction 90 degrees beyond the satellite, which signals continue fixed in direction with respect to Io until, just before the plane of the magnetic axis catches up with Io, a second set of signals starts up. The new radiation is sent out in the direction (with respect to the satellite) in which the magnetic axis was pointing at the start of the whole sequence. To further complicate this complex procedure, the two sets of radio signals differ in respect of frequency-structure, and both show different patterns of frequency in relation to time. Maybe, when we are a bit brighter, it will turn out that, what seemed only a few years ago to be "severe Jovian thunderstorms", are actually some patiently reiterated message concerning our nearest intelligent neighbours.

Perhaps, too, we should pay some attention to the "Lagrange Nodes", the five points in space in the vicinity of every pair of celestial bodies which have zero gravitational potential, and which thus form convenient cases in the desert of space, where probes can rest without having to orbit any other body. These nodes were predicted by Joseph Lagrange about 200 years ago, and it is only recently that evidence has been produced to suggest that they have a real existence (radio echoes imply accumulations of space-dust at these points). A small probe would not be distinguishable from space-dust with our present equipment, and such a machine may be lying out there waiting for the appropriate signal of interrogation to start up its recorded message . . . .

In all the foregoing we have adhered closely to what might be termed Scientific Monism—the concept that all the phenomena in the universe can be reduced to physical laws, even though they be laws of an altogether superior system of knowledge to our present science. But there is another way to look at the universe, which has as many and as powerful adherents as Monism—that is to say Dualism, by which is to be understood that Mind is something of a different nature to Matter, and that although Mind and Matter may interact, this interaction is not necessarily of a causal nature. Once we are prepared to accept Dualism as a respectable hypothisis, we must give consideration to many phenomena of the type known as "parapsychological", or in an older terminology, as "supernatural". In Part IV of this article we will see what light can be shed by the concepts of parapsychology upon the question of Alien Intelligences.

Our Cover illustration is a detail extracted from the photograph reproduced on this page.

The photograph was taken by Mr. Franz Trautsamwieser, of Vienna, Austria, during a visit to Venice, Italy, on September 5, 1966. The weather was perfect, with a clear blue sky : the time, 2.00 p.m.

Mr. Trautsamwieser states that he did not see the object. His only interest was to take a picture of the church on the far side of the canal.

Technical details: **Pentina FM** (Pentagon) ; **Lens :** Meier Tele 135 mm.; **Stop-opening :** f 5.6 or 8 ; **Exposure :** 1/125 sec.; **Film :** AGFA CT 18.

Credit to Mrs. Dora Bauer, Vienna

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

XVIIIth century sighting by Captain Cook's crew

Sir,—There is, in a book by Roderick Cameron, a passage which may be of interest to you if you do not know it already. The title of the book is: *The Golden Haze, with Captain Cook in the South Pacific*. It has been published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, in 1965. I have found the passage in question on p.240 of the Readers' Union edition of this book; the page numbers should be the same here as in the original publisher's edition. It is partly a quotation from the diary of a scientist who accompanied Captain Cook. Here is the text:

"On their last evening in New Caledonia waters, Forster reported 'a ball of fire to the north-west in size and splendour resembling the sun, though somewhat paler'. It appeared with a hissing sound and soon burst leaving behind it a few shining sparks 'among which the largest, oblong in shape, sped from our view, followed by a bluish, flaming streak'."—Raymond Eyquem, 6 Beda Road, Canton, Cardiff.

A classic fireball

Sir,—Perhaps readers of the article by C. Maxwell Cade, *Fireballs and Flying Saucers* (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Volume 13, No. 1), would be interested in the following, possibly unique account of ball-lightning, which has recently come to my notice. If, indeed this had occurred in an open space, no doubt it could have been described as a "UFO light" or "foo-fighter."

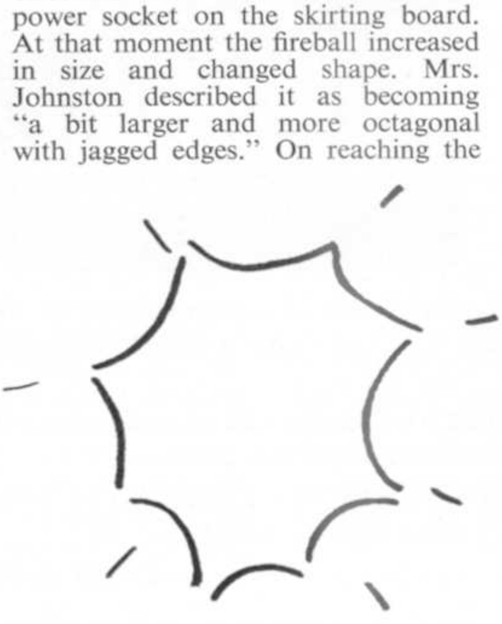
As far as I was concerned, the sighting was first brought to light on Thursday, February 23, 1967, and that evening was confirmed by a telephone conversation between myself and one of the observers, a Mrs. Johnston of Normandy near Guildford, Surrey. I subsequently dispatched an information form which was completed and returned on Monday, February 27. This is what apparently occurred on February 19, 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and their two children were in the sitting-room of their bungalow on the afternoon of Sunday, February 19, this year. It had been raining for some while when their son, D. P. Johnston, decided to use the telephone which is situated in a recess by the stairs. After a little time the silence was suddenly shattered by a loud explosion, later described by Mrs. Johnson as a loud paper bag popping, followed by a sound that resembled a clap of thunder. At that instant, the telephone went dead and from the telephone protector appeared a ball of fire. It was the shape and size of a narrow light bulb and was a yellow-orange colour,

a—yellow-orange b—fuzzy blue edge

surrounded by a "fuzzy blue edge." It then travelled slowly behind Mrs. Johnston, who was sitting with her back to the telephone protector box, **scorching** her neck, and **singeing** her hair. Later she complained of a headache.

The fireball crossed the room in silence towards the fire, then changed direction and headed towards a power socket on the skirting board. At that moment the fireball increased in size and changed shape. Mrs. Johnston described it as becoming "a bit larger and more octagonal with jagged edges." On reaching the



power socket the fire ball shrunk until it disappeared.

Later investigations showed that the telephone earth wire had become disconnected at some time in the past.

What I believe happened is as follows: the lightning discharge landed on the telephone wires, perhaps attracted by a small earth condition on the line, a characteristic of the type of exchange involved, when a conversation between two subscribers is in progress. The vast potential blew the fuses and carbon electrodes at the protector, disconnecting the line and releasing the earth condition I have described. Finding the air a better conductor than the bakelite of the protector, the ball of energy searched for an earth, in order to release its power. It eventually found an outlet in the earth of the power socket.

This appears to be an extraordinarily well detailed case and is perhaps of some use to UFO researchers who wish to avoid mis-identification.

I should add that I am a telephone engineer and am conversant with both Post Office exchange apparatus and subscriber apparatus.—Richard C. Beet, 16 Hillcrest Road, Guildford, Surrey.

[*Mr. Beet is a member of the newly-formed* SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (SIGAP) *and would no doubt welcome applications from interested individuals in West Surrey.*—EDITOR].

The Guildford Sighting—Balloon or UFO?

Sir,—On November 15, 1966, at 1.35 p.m., something came down through the dark overcast clouds over Guildford. It was the shape of a "double bubble" and was of a silvery grey or dark blue colour. As it descended, four antennae could be seen protruding from the top bubble; after a few seconds a jet of flame gushed from one side of the object and it moved over the city of Guildford. As it moved along, pieces of the bubble appeared to drop off, and then the whole object was enveloped in a ball of flame as it disappeared up through the clouds.

The above incident is based upon the *common factors* of descriptions given by five different witnesses who saw part or the whole of this sighting.

If we examine all the account in more detail, we are faced with some conflicting facts, ranging from rapid zigzags of the craft, to slow drifting movement. Mr. Seal, for instance, who initially sighted the object from a nearby factory, stated that the double bubble had four antennae with flashing lights of an orange colour and that also as it descended through the clouds, it appeared to lower a four-leg type of undercarriage from beneath the body. Mr. Seal also stated that the object gave off a heavy buzzing sound like a drone of bees, and that when the flame appeared from the side of the object, it gushed out like a jet and gave off black smoke. Mr. Seal, who had been an Army parachutist, was experienced in judging distances and heights. He gave the height as approximately 2,000ft. and a range of 2,000ft. from him. He was interviewed within 24 hours of the incident and was still in an alarmed condition.

On the other hand, we have the testimony of Mr. Brown who was another 200 yards away from the object than Mr. Seal—and remember that the weather was dull and misty at the time. Mr. Brown was standing at a bus stop when his attention was attracted skywards by a flame, which he described as gaseous. He could make out the shape of a double bubble object with some sort of antenna in the centre between the two balls, and it appeared to be silver grey in colour. As the flame gushed out, it was impossible to see the reflection on the side of the bubbles, and then he could see the black smoke. The flame then went out and the object moved off over Guildford. As it did so, pieces could be seen falling from it. (At this point a bus pulled up in front of Mr. Brown and obscured his view.) Mr. Brown spoke to a woman nearby. She thought it was a helicopter on fire. However, after boarding the bus and proceeding into Guildford, Mr. Brown anxiously peered out of the windows, as he was sure that the object was about to crash into the centre of the town; there was nothing to be seen. At this moment, back at the factory, Mr. Seal had shouted to three other men to come and see this strange object. As they ran to look, the double bubble seemed to be enveloped in a ball of fire and it disappeared into the clouds . . . What was it? I don't know, but something did appear that day, and according to the local met. office there were no met. balloons for miles. . . .

Interesting comparisons . . . Thirty employees at a Seattle factory saw a double deck balloon sailing majestically across the sky. It exploded over the southern part of the city and pieces of the "ship" were seen falling down although none could be found (29.4.1950). *Space, Gravity and The Flying Saucer* by Leonard G. Cramp, p.95).

The UFO made the noise of bees in a hive . . . (Case 170 of Jacques Vallée's article in *The Humanoids*).
—Omar Fowler, Chairman SIGAP, Tregarnon, Firacre Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot.

A matter of breeding?

Sir,—A.V.B.'s "humanoids" appear to be very similar to ourselves in that they are human in shape, have hair on their bodies, mammary glands, similar genitals (in the female at any rate), pentadactyl limbs, etc. They are mammals and apparently human. Those scientists who believe that an intelligent race with an advanced technology evolving on any planet would look more or less like us will not be surprised.

But these scientists *might* be surprised that "They", (A.V.B.'s humanoids) consider themselves *so* like us that they have attempted to mate with us. For this to be possible we would have to have the same number and types of chromosomes, the same type of blood groups, the same system of digestion, etc.

I am not a zoologist but I would like to hear the views of one on the possibility of an alien life-form being so similar to ourselves.

Perhaps the explanation is that they *are* human and that they originated on *this* planet. (Or we originated on their's—who can tell?)

However, the implication is clear: they look like us and they reproduce like us, so they probably breathe air with the same partial pressures of O_2 and CO_2 as we do, as well as sharing our sensitivity to radiation. I suggest that:

(a) The suits and helmets were radiation-proof clothing, necessary because there was some leakage of radiation from the UFO's power plant. This would account for the mild "radiation sickness" suffered by A.V.B. after his experience, and the woman would probably be able to remove her protective clothing for just the short time necessary without suffering any ill-effects.

(b) The green smoke had nothing to do with any alien atmosphere, but was a powerful germicide, possibly mixed with an aphrodisiac.

It does not necessarily follow that the "experiment" was successful, and I wonder if the "Barney Hill" case and others similar were to obtain specimens of ova and spermatozoa for examination to establish why the gametes of the two races were incompatible.

Alternatively, perhaps they *were* successful and the Hills are to be father and mother to millions of hybrids as suggested in vol. 11, no. 3. (*Mail Bag*—EDITOR).

Lastly there is a point for the optimists: A.V.B. and the Hills were returned, unharmed. From "Their" point of view it was not necessary; if they had "disposed" of them when they had finished with them, no one would have believed that they had been kidnapped by a flying saucer even if there were witnesses; and they wouldn't have been able to tell the tale like they are doing.

Presumably, "They" have some form of regard not only for life but also for our feelings.
—(Mrs.) A. Jean Maclachlan, Laroch Park, Glencroe, Arrochar, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.

P.S. From my experience of trying to get library books on Flying Saucers, there would appear to be a shortage of them not only in the Dunoon library, but in libraries throughout Scotland. I think it would be a good idea for you to suggest that all readers, including those rich enough to buy books and those with private UFO libraries at their disposal, should regularly descend on their public library and order all the UFO books that are not in stock. After all, quite a lot of people have developed an interest in the subject after, quite by chance, taking a book out of the library. The more impressive the UFO section looks, the more new enthusiasts we will attract, and the less time I'll have to wait for the books I order.

A.J.M.

The Heflin Photograph

Sir,—The Heflin story, so far as it has yet been told—and shown—simply will not do. Here is yet another thoroughly unsatisfactory business connected with UFO photography.

First of all, who in his senses would hand over original photographs of anything to a stranger, in or out of uniform? Mr. Heflin knew perfectly well that he did not have the slightest obligation to hand over anything, and one wonders why he did not either tell the man to go to Hell, or call the police. He should not even have discussed the matter with a stranger.

Now about the photograph you published on our March-April cover. There are various questions that call for answers:

1. What sort of vehicle was the photograph taken from?

2. Was the photo in fact taken from inside a vehicle at all?
3. If it was so taken, what vehicles have near-vertical windscreens?
4. Where is the port-side windscreen-wiper?
5. Why is the outline of the windscreen frame so uneven and wavy, and why is there no indication of the moulded surround?
6. Was there any glass in front of the camera when the photo was taken?
7. As the vehicle, if there is one, appears to have been pulled up very close to the edge of the road, if not actually over it, why did not Mr. Heflin quickly hop out of it and take the shot properly, without any glass in front of him?
8. Considering the strong light which is evidently lighting the UFO from the right, why are there no shadows being cast upon the road by the telegraph poles on the right?

I am, as most of your readers know, a firm believer in the existence of UFOs, which I believe come from outer space. But the whole question of UFO photography wants to be watched with an eagle eye. I doubt whether more than a dozen or so of the hundreds of UFO photos I have seen, can be pronounced free of suspicion.—Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, London, S.W.7. [May 1967].

[*The Heflin photographs have been examined by photo-analysts of NICAP (Washington D.C.) who have indicated that they feel they are genuine. Mr. Heflin, a public-works roads inspector claims that he took them from an official truck. All four prints were sent to us by Mr. Ralph Rankow, formerly NICAP photographic consultant, and if space permits, we hope to include an item about them.*—EDITOR.]

A scientist writes . . .

[In our March/April Mail Bag columns, we published a letter from an un-named European physicist. He has something more to say on the matter of the **Bent Light Rays.**]

Sir,—Thanks for publishing my remarks. In the case of the beam bending and the motor car crash in Australia, would you kindly suppress the restrictions concerning the lower speed of the motor vehicle. Because it turns out that the slower the speed, the smaller the radius of curvature of the trajectory (if the driving force is proportional to the mass concerned). So after all it may very well be that the force bending the light rays would also have caused the motor vehicle to crash. So please erase the restriction qualifying low speeds.

MORE FROM MY OHIO VALLEY NOTE BOOK

by John A. Keel

Sistersville, W. Va., Revisited

WHILE driving along the Ohio River valley in April, 1967, I passed through the sleepy little town of Sistersville, W. Va., and decided to stop and check out the celebrated UFO sighting of 1897. According to Major Donald E. Keyhoe's book, *The Flying Saucers are Real*, and Dr. Jacques Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*[1], a large object surrounded by bright lights appeared over this place at 9 p.m. on April 19, 1897[2]. The story as generally told states that the object projected a powerful searchlight on to the ground and that the local mills blew their whistles to alert the residents.

My first stop was at the local library where I learned that no history of the town existed and, in fact, the only reference available was a dog-eared copy of Major Keyhoe's book. "A lot of people have been trying to find out more about that light," the librarian said. "But I don't believe there are any written records of it."

I visited the local newspaper office next and was told that the "old office and all of its files were destroyed by a fire in the 1950s". When asked if anyone had reported seeing anything unusual in the sky more recently the editor shrugged. "I've heard a few rumours . . . but we haven't published anything on 'em," he said. Then he delivered a commercial about the newly reconstructed hotel and advised me to see it before I left town.

At the Town Hall, across the street from the newspaper office, I chatted with a few people, none of whom seemed to know anything about the 1897 incident, but they all suggested that there might be someone at the hotel who could help me. So, feeling that I had been conned into making an unplanned visit to the hotel, I rather reluctantly sought it out. And it was there that I struck "pay dirt".

Five minutes after I walked into the picturesque Hotel Wells, a careful reconstruction of a Gay Nineties hostelry, I was surrounded by people all shyly claiming to have seen UFOs in recent months. The daughter of the desk clerk, Joyce McGinnis, 17, said that she and several of her friends had observed a strange object hovering at low altitude directly over the Ford Garage on a late November afternoon in 1966. It was like an inverted mushroom, she explained, luminous but obviously a solid silvery metallic object with a dark band around its middle. Several other people in the hotel verified this and outlined their own sightings. One young man claimed that he and his friends had actually pursued one of these objects for several miles in an automobile in December.

(Later I stopped by the Ford Garage and discovered that it was on a slight rise directly overlooking the local school and the large school playground.)

Mrs. McGinnis was able to give me the phone number of the town's unofficial historian, Mr. Roy Thistle, who took a special interest in UFO sightings. Mr. Thistle, it developed, was two years old at the time of the 1897 sighting. In a phone conversation he told me that

he had often heard his father tell of the event, and he had known many of the other witnesses besides.

"It was just a meteor," Mr. Thistle explained. "And it didn't appear at 9 p.m. like all those books say. It was early in the morning . . . just before dawn . . . around 4.30 a.m. The thing was like a big ball of fire but it moved kind of slow and made a loud hissing sound. It came from the southwest and moved up the river and away towards the northeast."

Less than an hour after I had arrived in Sistersville I was in the office of the town's leading attorney, Mr. Robert Wright, a charming giant of a man who was a UFO buff.

"We've been seeing these things for months," Mr. Wright declared. "In fact, since last summer they've been showing up here almost every Wednesday like clockwork. Everybody's been watching them . . . but not everybody likes to talk about them. Now we're so well organized that when somebody spots one of them passing over they just grab the phone . . . we're all on party lines here . . . and yells 'UFO east', or 'UFO west', or whatever direction it's going in and everybody runs out and watches."

A wide variety of objects have been apparently observed manoeuvring low over the hills directly behind the town. Some have been metallic discs, others have been bright coloured lights. Cigar-shaped objects have also been seen.

"One Wednesday a few weeks back," Mr. Wright told me, "my wife and I watched one of these things for an hour just over that hill." He pointed to a high ridge visible from his office window. "Then it seemed to split into three . . . and all three of them took off like a herd of turtles."

Maybe the 1897 object was a meteor, but the folks at Sistersville are all certain that the things they've been watching during the past year are manufactured objects under intelligent control. Yet the local press has ignored these sightings and no one has bothered to report them to the Air Force or anyone else. They seem to realise that the situation in Sistersville is not unique. They know that the same things are being seen in all the other towns up and down the valley.

"They're weird all right," Mr. Wright stated. "But they don't seem to bother anybody."

Aborted kidnap of a bloodmobile

My next case was told to me by the schoolteacher father of the witness, and he told me the story in front of his class! I have no reason to doubt the story, but I must explain that I have never been able to get the young man on the phone. I gather that he was pretty badly shaken up by the incident, which is hardly surprising.

Early in March 1967 (believed to be March 5), a Red Cross Bloodmobile (a van which visits towns and obtains blood from volunteer donors) was moving along Highway 2, near the Ohio River, when a large glowing object descended over it and lowered two long arm-like projections, one on either side of the vehicle. The driver, Beau Shertzer, 21, became extremely alarmed and accelerated, but the object remained with the vehicle and the arms appeared to be trying to pick up the whole machine. Fortunately some traffic approached from the opposite direction, and when the headlights appeared the object withdrew the arms and flew away.

A nurse was in the vehicle, and both she and Shertzer were hysterical when they reached Huntington, W.Va.

The incident was mentioned once in a radio newscast, but there was no mention of it in the local press. I found the driver's father in Point Pleasant: he was convinced his son was telling the truth, and says that he now refuses to drive along that highway . . . even in daylight.

Telephone incidents

A number of unusual telephone incidents now seem to be occurring throughout the country. Some—or all—of these could be the work of hoaxers, or just examples of telephone malfunctions. However, we should keep track of these incidents and search for possible patterns.

West Virginia has had its share. A number of UFO witnesses during January/April, 1967, later received calls which consisted only of a steady "bleeping" sound.

Others, including police using police radios, reported strange voices cutting in on all channels, speaking in an undecipherable language, while the witnesses were observing UFOs near their autos. Point Pleasant police said these voices sounded like "speeded-up phonograph records". Others said "they seemed to be speaking Spanish or Puerto Rican, very fast". Similar voices were picked up on CB radios on Long Island during the sightings of 1966, and in August of that year, a voice cut into the commercial channels of radios in several parts of Minnesota and announced: "Stand by for a message from outer space . . ." The message was never forthcoming.

UFOs have frequently been sighted around the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly in Point Pleasant, W.Va., and their TV set reacts to these flights. Mrs. Lilly claims that, "I hope you don't think I'm losing my mind, but the other day I heard a baby cry, and there isn't a baby in the house, or even close by." Recently Mrs. Lilly's teenage daughter was talking on the phone when "suddenly the phone sounded as if it went dead, and this voice started talking in a language I couldn't understand." The Lilly's car has also been stalling. They live on the edge of the TNT area, site of many "monster" reports and UFO appearances.

POSTSCRIPT: In New Jersey, in December, a voice cut in on a long distance phone conversation, and claimed to be the voice of a space man. Telephone company personnel were alerted by the subscriber's wife from the house next door. They were able to monitor the call but could not trace it.

During his fourth pass over Hawaii in MA-9, Faith 7, on May 15, 1963, Astronaut Gordon Cooper's voice transmission was interrupted by an "unintelligible, foreign language transmission" on the channel reserved for space flights. NASA recorded the transmission, but were never able to identify or translate it. (05 41 38 of flight transcript.)

NOTES

1 Paperback edition.

2 FSR, July/August 1966, p.12.

MORE ON 1897

by Jerome Clark

Our contributor from Minnesota makes a welcome return to the columns of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW after a long illness.

THE 1897 UFO wave has been ignored far too long. Until 1965 UFO students had been little more than aware of its existence, relying upon the incomplete and somewhat misleading data of Fort,[1] Keyhoe,[2] and Ruppelt.[3] With the appearance of Jacques Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*—which drew attention to the LeRoy incident—interest in the period has grown considerably, and preliminary studies into the "airship" and related matters have already been published in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW by Vallée, Donald Hanlon, Lucius Farish, and this writer.[4] Gordon Lore of the NICAP staff has written an important new book, to be published this year, that will deal in part with the airship.

It is now evident that the 1897 flap contains within it a number of highly significant clues to the UFO problem, and I suspect that a really thorough search through newspaper morgues, files of state historical societies, etc., would uncover masses of data that might place the general enigma in a new and radically different context. Even today, it seems to me, the "traditional" theories of ufologists are becoming increasingly irrelevant in the new light of the 1897 evidence. The relatively simple picture drawn by Keyhoe, Hall, Lorenzen, Oberth and most other serious investigators may eventually have to be discarded and replaced with —who knows?

A Photograph

In common with its latter-day counterpart, the "flying saucer," the airship was photographed. Although to my knowledge none of these photographs has survived, the following account, discovered by Farish, is interesting because of its extreme detail. The photographer and speaker is Mr. C. D. Lawrence, a view artist:

"At 5.15 this morning (April 26) I was awakened by someone who ran into the house, arousing the inmates with the explanation that a large balloon was hovering over Baring Cross, beyond the upper bridge. The house where I was stopping is located near the power house of the street railway company, commanding an excellent view of that portion of the city where the mystery was seen. With other members of the household I hurried out and saw what at first appeared to be a very large balloon moving toward the south at a very rapid rate. It was coming end-on and I soon saw that it was not a balloon but the airship about which we have so long been reading. It approached toward the river, and then suddenly veered towards the east and after proceeding a short distance, turned northward, soon disappearing from sight, after having been visible for at least fifteen minutes. I secured a negative while it appeared broad-side toward the amazed observers, and as you may see a very good view was secured. The negative shows a large cylindrical body pointed at both ends like a cigar, apparently about forty feet in length, although it was seen at such an altitude that no one could accurately judge of its dimensions. A car, in which the navigators of the vessel resided, depended from the buoyant body, being a large box-like arrangement, from which a heavy anchor depended by means of a long rope.[5] The propeller is arranged at one of the ends of the ship, as is plainly shown in the negative. I could not, of course, definitely give the velocity, but I think I am safe in saying that it could not have been less than fifty miles an hour. The testimony of the large number who witnessed the strange sight would be conclusive evidence of its genuineness, even if I had not been so fortunate as to secure this negative."

A Contact

The next story appeared in the Harrisburg, Arkansas, *Modern News* for April 23, 1897. I am, frankly, quite sceptical of this account, mainly because of its suspiciously excessive detail. But several points are significant: for one, we have here probably the first reference to a UFO powered by "anti-gravity", a feature not to become prominent until the advent of the post-1947 contact claims. Secondly, the aeronaut expresses an interest in terrestrial political problems, especially the plight of the Cuban people under Spanish rule; an April 15 contact near Springfield, Illinois, has the airship's occupants discussing the same topic.[6] Third, as a point of *possible* corroboration, Mr. Harris's mention of an "old gentleman (who) wore a heavy set of dark, silken whiskers, which hung down near his waist", is reminiscent of Sumpter and McLemore's "man with a long dark beard".[7] Harris's airship allegedly contained a crew of, in addition to the old man, two young men and a woman; Sumpter and McLemore reported an elderly man, a young man and a woman. On the minus side, a search through the files of a Dallas daily newspaper did not turn up any reported sightings of an airship shortly after midnight of the morning of April 21.

I am presenting this claim, despite my reservations, for the record. Parts of the story had faded so badly on the newspaper page that they were impossible to read. Where this had happened, I have so indicated with a dash.

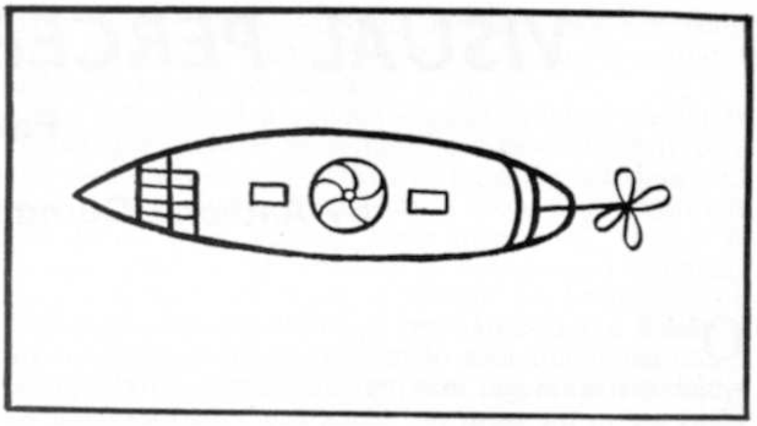
"The airship of which we have read so much of late has caused considerable comment but no one ever dreamed that it would ever be anchored in Harrisburg. Wednesday night (April 21) Ex-Senator Harris was

awakened about 1 o'clock by an unfamiliar noise, and upon taking a peep out he spied a peculiar looking object in the west. Instantly he thought of the wonderful airship which had so mystified the people of the west during the past few weeks, and hurriedly dressing he took his field glass and went out in the yard where he could get a good view. The first sight through the glass satisfied him that it was a wonderful airship. As the object came nearer he could discern the shape, but in a few seconds it came so near he threw down his glass. The mysterious flyer paused and gradually descended to within a few feet of the ground and only a short distance from Mr. Harris's yard. Mr. Harris says there was an elderly man, a woman and two young men on board. The old gentleman wore a heavy set of dark, silken whiskers, which hung down near his waist. He had jet black eyes and a deep, firm expression. Mr. Harris said he walked out a little nearer and hailed the old gentleman. The old man seemed a little surprised when he spoke, not expecting to see any one out at that hour of night, but he spoke pleasantly, and after taking on a supply of fresh well water, he said:

" 'Well, you seem to be a very clever man, and if you will promise not to divulge my secret in a way to do me harm, I will tell you the whole story, except how the effect is produced.'

"After receiving satisfactory assurance, he continued:

" '(— —) you remember about 26 years (ago?), what is now called the St. Louis *Republic* was then the St. (— —). It changed to (— —) and later to the (—), about 26 years ago (— —) was, the St. Louis *Times* (— —) exclusively, an account of a scientific invention made by a gentleman, whose name I will not mention, by which the laws of gravitation were entirely and completely suspended. He was offered big sums of money for it by several syndicates in this country, and also had large offers from parties at Paris, London and many other places. During the time he was considering these offers he was taken violently ill, and after lingering a few weeks died, leaving his invention in the vault. This man was my uncle and he had partially confided the secret to me, but not sufficiently for me to do anything without the original invention. After the lapse of about 19 years I managed to secure the original, and having plenty of money at my disposal and having devoted my time and talent during the past seven years to experimenting, I have an airship which is almost perfection, but I am not quite through experimenting, and so I continue to travel at night to keep from being detected. I will make an attempt to visit the planet Mars before I put the airship on public exhibition. Weight is no object to me. I suspend all gravitation by placing a small wire around an object. You see I have a 4-ton improved Hotchkiss gun on board, besides



A newspaper reporter's sketch of an airship which passed over Nashville, Arkansas, late in April 1897.

about ten tons of ammunition. I was making preparations to go over to Cuba and kill out the Spanish army if hostilities had not ceased, but now my plans are changed and I may go to the aid of the Armenians. To this improved gun we only have to pour the cartridges into a hopper and press a button and it fires 63,000 times per minute. No, gravitation is not in my way. I place my wire around this 4-ton gun and hold it out with one hand and take aim. Oh, I could place my anti-gravitation wire around the national capital building and take it by the dome and bring it over and set it down in Harrisburg as easy as I could an ink stand. Distance is almost overcome; why, we came over the suburbs of Dallas at 12.10, less than an hour ago, and we have travelled very slowly. I could take breakfast here, do my shopping in Paris and be back here for dinner without inconvenience, as soon as I get my new propellers completed.'

"He said he must be off before anyone else was disturbed and invited Mr. Harris to take a ride with him, but he kindly declined the offer. He bade Mr. Harris adieu and floated up and drifted away to a place among the stars and in a few seconds was hid beyond the darkness of the night."

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3 Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, 1956.
4 Donald B. Hanlon and Jacques Vallée, *Airships over Texas:* FSR, January/February 1967.
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Clark, *The Strange Case of the 1897 Airship:* FSR, July/August 1966.
5 See the Sioux City, Iowa, and Merkel, Texas, reports. (*Strange Case . . .* p. 10, and *Texas Odyssey . .* .p.10, respectively.)
6 *A Contact Claim*, p.31.
7 *Strange Case . . .*p.15.

NOTE: The author wishes to thank Mr. Lucius Farish of Plumerville, Arkansas, one of the real pioneers of 1897 research, for the information used in this article.

VISUAL PERCEPTION OF UFOs

Part II

by Anthony Durham and Keith Watkins

OVER a period of years psychologists have managed to gain some idea of the perceptual mechanisms by which the brain can interpret the retinal signals. These ideas are in the form of "black box" theories; that is, the logic involved in various operations has been investigated, but the details of the operations in terms of nerve cells and connections are not known. Basically, the brain digests the incoming information and then builds a perception from its own experience. This perception is "tested" against the incoming data to see if it fits. If it fits, all is well; if not, a new perception is tried.

Everyone must have experienced suddenly seeing something in a different way, or temporarily seeing an object in some pattern which is not really there. This is evidence of the brain trying out its perceptions. Experiments have been carried out on the way the data is used, the kinds of data picked out as visual cues, the relative importance of these cues, and the way the brain works under anomalous conditions. Also, the effects of previous experience, learning and subconscious attitudes have been investigated. These are important since we now know that incoming data is modified by experience and may even be neglected if it is too unusual. The problems of perception presented to the brain are interrelated and are difficult to consider separately. However, here we will break up the subject into the perception of distance and depth, of size, of colour, and of movement.

For all these topics the first problem is the limited information handling capacity of the brain. The brain tends to arrange visual data into labelled chunks, reducing the amount of information in the display. If one looks at a regular display of dots, one sees somewhat labile groupings of the dots into columns and squares. This shows the active organising power of the brain; it is always looking for ways of grouping information. Also, perception is not instantaneous, but normally requires time for eye movements and multiple fixations upon various objects, each fixation providing a batch of information to be analysed and incorporated into the overall perception. When you look hard at one small area, such as a TV set, everything else begins to fade and blur until you cannot see it any longer. A constant flow of information is needed to maintain a sharp picture.

The specific cues used in distance and depth perception are as follows:—

1. **Accommodation/convergence cues.** These are really physiological cues and relate to the focusing of the eye and the amount of convergence or "cross-eyedness" being used to see the object. These cues are only useful over a few inches.

2. **Binocular disparity.** Because of the separation between the eyes, the retinas receive different images, with small differences in the positions of objects in the field. One can verify this by shutting first one eye then the other and observing the difference. These images are fused by the brain and the difference used to give depth. Because of the short baseline between the eyes this effect is of little importance at distances over, say, 50 feet. However, over such short distances it is quite good. Unfortunately, with a self-luminous object against a homogeneous background, the mechanism does not work very well and can occasionally be deceiving. For example a small nearby UFO could be mistaken for a larger one further away.

3. **Motion parallax.** If one moves around, the relative positions of objects change according to their distance.

4. **Interposition.** This is when an object covers or blocks off part of another object. This cue is an extremely powerful one and in experimental conditions can override an opposing stereoscopic cue.

5. **Linear and detail perspective.** Linear perspective is due to the geometry of the situation, e.g., railway lines appear to converge towards the horizon. Detail perspective is partly due to the finite resolving power of the eye—that is, less detail can be seen on distant objects.

6. **Aerial perspective.** Distant objects look bluer and mistier. Paintings by Leonardo da Vinci used this device particularly effectively. This effect is very much conditioned by environment: in the clear air of deserts and mountain ranges town-bred people can make large errors in distance judgements. Try standing on top of Snowdon and estimating the distances to the nearest peaks: then find their actual distances from a map! However, this is the only mechanism applicable over any distance in a blank visual field.

7. **Light and shade effects.** These are more concerned with the depth of individual objects and their shape, rather than their actual distance. Normally, light comes from above, and shadows give information about which parts of the objects stick out and which in, i.e., the 3D shape. In summary, to put it bluntly; there is no reliable way of estimating the distance of an unknown object (especially a featureless one) more than a few hundred feet away in a blank visual field.

The cues used for size are the distance of the object (estimated as above) and subjective ideas of its real size. The retinal image (which is what corresponds to the actual angular size) is modified and displayed as a perception of the object apparently much closer. For example, look at one hand at arm's length and the other at half this distance: they look very nearly the same size, providing the images do not overlap. As soon as the hands are lined up, the difference in size becomes marked, and the perceived images approximate to the relative sizes of the retinal images, in this

case in the ratio 2:1. This phenomenon is called Size Constancy; in effect the brain can zoom in like a telephoto lens, preventing objects shrinking with distance as much as they ought.

This effect will also alter our subjective impressions of perspective. Since we expand distant objects, perspective will be reduced. This explains why photographs often seem to show far more perspective then we see. The perspective in the photograph is true geometrical perspective and is quite different from our perceived world. Size scaling is not a conscious process, but nevertheless effectively alters what we see. If the subjective distance estimate is wrong the size will also be wrong. Objects against the sky present few distance cues, so the brain guesses the distance and applies the appropriate size scaling. Experimental data indicates that the actual retinal image size is effectively inaccessible to the conscious brain. Therefore, it may be possible to get a truer estimate of the angular size of a UFO by asking "How big do you think it was?" and "How far away do you think it was?", then dividing one by the other, than from the traditional comparison with another object. We therefore recommend that investigators try both approaches and endeavour to judge for each particular witness what faith may be put in each estimate.

An example of inappropriate size scaling is the Moon Illusion. When the moon rises over the horizon the brain has plenty of cues to show that it is miles away. Hence it steps up the size. When the moon is overhead, we have no cues and no idea how far away it is. The brain guesses a distance, usually around 200 yards (estimates of this vary). The scaling for this distance is far less than that for the horizon moon and so the moon looks smaller. A consequence of this is that the moon makes a very good comparison yardstick for estimation of angular size since any other object will be subject to the same illusion.

Effects like these described here will apply to UFOs and so angular size estimates can be strikingly inaccurate. Many witnesses assume a nice convenient size for an object, to suit their ideas about what it is and subconsciously make everything else fit. For example, the 30 odd feet often reported for a disc-shaped UFO should be treated with caution. It is too much of a nice round number, about the size of a spacious living room.

Another effect altering angular size is Shape Constancy. Normally, one has a good idea of the actual shape of an object, and if it is viewed obliquely, one corrects for this and sees it as if viewed from more nearly straight on. For example an obliquely viewed circle presents an elliptical retinal image, but quantitative studies have shown that the perceived image is considerably less elliptical than the retinal image. This applies to UFOs, especially as many witnesses think of them as circular. If they saw an ellipse they would correct it and actually see a more circular object. To summarise: the brain adjusts size according to the assumed distance. If insufficient or contradictory distance data is fed to the brain, it will make an arbitrary "bet", based on as yet little known factors, and alter the size accordingly. Often any slight inconsistencies which are present are altered or removed from the perception—one actually does not see them. The brain will hold on to this arbitrary hypothesis unless more data comes in.

An example of a sudden change is when an aerial object goes behind something and one suddenly sees the distance properly. This can be quite startling and shows the extent of the effects. Colour and brightness perception have already been mentioned, but it is worth repeating that the overall background illumination will have an effect, especially on brightness or whiteness estimates. In fact, the brain can be deceived by a black object selectively strongly illuminated against a dim background. The object will actually look white!

Movement perception is of special interest, since a lot of UFO data is based on the way UFOs move. There are two basic movement cues: movement of the retinal image and movement of the eyes when tracking an object. There are also inferential cues, such as movement parallax, used to show when the observer is moving, and interposition, i.e., objects passing behind things. These last two are less basic and require more experience and perceptual learning. The actions of the first two are linked together; during eye movements the retinal image signals are cancelled against the eye muscle command signals. This is why the world does not swing round during voluntary eye movements, but will if the eye is pushed *gently* by hand. This balance is quite a fine one and can, if upset, give rise to an illusion known as the Autokinetic Effect, which occurs when a small light is fixated against a homogeneous, usually black, visual field. (The effect will also work with a black dot against a uniform white background.) After looking at the light for a while, it starts to move in various ways, from side to side, up and down or in swoops. This effect is probably due to changes in the command signals from the brain keeping the eye fixated properly, as the eye muscles fatigue and alter a little.

The effects of fatigue can be seen by looking hard to one side for a short whole and then looking back at the light. The illusion is then enhanced and the light moves around, normally in one plane, e.g. horizontally after fatiguing the horizontal control muscles. This illusion has been invoked in the past to explain away UFOs as planets or other fixed lights. Mostly the movements are rather small, but with eye fatigue may be quite large. However, they are centred around the fixed position and a fairly homogeneous field is required. Under normal conditions we think it unlikely that this illusion would give many UFO reports, except that excitement or old age may exaggerate the illusion.

The retinal image movement cue seems to be analysed by two mechanisms. One in effect functions discontinuously, calculating velocity by dividing distance travelled by time taken; the other seems to measure velocity directly rather like a speedometer, which has no explicit clock. Like a speedometer this latter mechanism has to be calibrated. It is rather labile, and appears to be calibrated at intervals against the other mechanism. It can also be fatigued, or will adjust itself to continued movement in part of the retinal field. For example, if a rotating spiral is fixated for a minute or so, when the rotation is stopped the

spiral seems to expand, but paradoxically it also seems to stay still. This paradoxical effect is possibly due to the other velocity channel which is not affected. Because of this clearly perceived paradoxical effect, this sort of illusory motion is unlikely to be involved in spurious UFO sightings. Some clues to the retinal physiology of this labile velocity mechanism do exist.

Experiments have shown that certain retinal circuits respond only to movements at a certain rate, and possibly these circuits contribute to this mechanism. Assuming that the movement cues are correctly received, the brain still has to decide what is moving. Since all motion is relative, there is always a choice as to which object is the moving one, or indeed whether it is the observer himself that is moving. For movement of part of the retinal image, the brain usually bets that the smaller objects are moving. Indeed, if a spot is shown on a large screen and the screen is moved, the observer will see the spot moving! This is important since the brain has clear evidence that it is the screen moving, but discards this evidence in favour of a more likely hypothesis, judged on previous experience.

This effect is also seen when clouds scud past the moon, but it is clearly a paradoxical effect in that the moon is also seen to be stationary. Another form of illusory movement is generated when the observer is looking at an object like the moon whilst himself moving. The moon is assigned a distance of a few hundred yards, and since it neither gets left behind nor changes its angle relative to the observer, the brain assumes it must be moving also. This effect is also odd in that the rate of movement is less than the observer's and is seen to be so, although the moon is not left behind! Special problems arise when the observer is himself moving. If the whole retinal image is moving, this is generally interpreted as motion of the observer, rather than as motion of the whole world. Also, when in motion, an observer cannot so easily judge relative motions in parts of his retinal field. Car drivers will know how difficult it can be to decide whether an opposing car is parked or moving. More information than normal is required, and information from other senses such as the balance organs is taken into account, before the brain makes a decision. Consequently, any movement estimates made from a moving vehicle should be treated with caution. To sum up perception to motion in UFOs: the basic mechanisms work remarkably well against even blank backgrounds, and illusory effects are probably quite small. Obviously, this all applies to motion transverse to the observer; motion towards or away from the observer is analysed by the depth-perceiving mechanisms mentioned already.

Overall then, the brain uses various cues to suggest various perceptions which are constantly tested against the incoming data. Normally this is satisfactory, but in situations where there is little information or unusual and conflicting data, the brain will make a good "bet" and may be wrong. With limited data the error will not be shown up and very unusual data may be discarded. The perception of the detail on a UFO is a case here. If the data coming in was completely new, it is probable the brain would pick a likely simplifying hypothesis based on the observer's experience and attitudes. The observer will then see and remember this interpretation of the data, and one cannot tell what the original was really like.

Indeed, it is arguable that no-one could properly see a completely new visual stimulus, with no relation to anything seen before. Obviously we cannot imagine such a stimulus (but consider for example the plight of a primitive savage brought up in a round mud-hut, where nothing in his culture is square and little enough straight, being faced with an exercise in geometry) and it must be borne in mind when dealing with sighting reports that the unusual facets of the object are just the ones most prone to severe misinterpretation. Also, it should be pointed out that after all this perceptual interpretation has occurred, there must be the storage and retrieval of the perception. This article has specifically ignored the whole subject of memory, and what is written here is strictly applicable only to the immediate perception. Over the hours, weeks or years before an investigator gets to the witness many distortions will creep in—a fit subject for another whole article. Suffice it to say that an account may well be as much fossilised by much telling and thinking about after a few days as after five years.

CORRECTION

Owing to a printing error the parts shown in square brackets were omitted from *The Problem of the Frankensteins* in the May/June issue.

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. . . first and second Adams. The first type of extraterrestrials would possess the characteristics of those who belonged to the first Adamic race ('So God created man in his own image . . . ' Genesis 1 v. 27); these are the descendants bearing characteristics of [the original Adam, Galactic Man, who may be coming from any part of our galaxy. The second type would possess the characteristics of] those who belonged to the second Adamic race ('And the *Lord* God formed man of the dust of the ground . . . ' Genesis 2 v. 7); these are the descendants bearing characteristics of the second Adam, earth animal or chemical man, who may be coming perhaps from a limited space, from within the confines of our own solar system. So present humanity, including the extraterrestrials . . .

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. . . Adonai[8]. As it has taken all this time to evolve a physical body of 'nature's chosen form' for the human race, our [extraterrestrial cousins—with all their advanced] technology—could hardly expect to manufacture one which would exactly match or equal its prototype in such a comparatively short period of time.

Now the cases of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hill . . .

TWENTY YEARS BACK

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench

ON JUNE 21, 1947, three days before Kenneth Arnold's sighting which triggered off press publicity for flying saucers, another most remarkable one occurred at Maury Island, near Tacoma, Washington.

Harold A. Dahl, a harbour patrolman, was out in his boat near Maury Island with a crew of two men and his son. Dahl's dog was also in the boat.

Suddenly, Dahl, who was at the wheel, noticed what he later described as six very large *doughnut-shaped* aircraft. Each of the craft was at least 100ft. in diameter and each one had a hole in the centre, approximately 25ft. in diameter.

Five of these craft were circling very closely around the sixth one which was stationary in the centre of the formation. The centre one appeared to be in some kind of trouble and was losing altitude fairly rapidly.

Dahl had managed to manoeuver his boat close to the shore. He was able to take some photographs of the objects. Meanwhile, the centre craft had come down to about 500ft. above the water. Suddenly, there was a dull boom and the centre craft disgorged a large quantity of white light metal pieces. This was followed by what seemed to Dahl and his companions as a hail of blacker metal which has a similar appearance to lava rock. Dahl's son had his arm injured by one of the falling fragments and another piece killed his dog.

When this extraordinary deluge of metal ceased, all six of the craft rose and drifted out to sea. The centre object which had dropped the metal did not seem in any way disturbed as the group moved away.

Subsequently, military intelligence officers investigated the sighting and one of them, a Major Sander, pronounced that the fragments alleged to have fallen on the beach at Maury Island were ordinary slag. Nevertheless, he made sure of taking specimens away for analysis.

Project Saucer, one of the predecessors of Project Blue Book, declared the Maury Island affair to be a hoax. However, there are some interesting points to be placed on record.

(1) The sighting occurred before that of Arnold, and Dahl would not at the time of the incident have heard of flying saucers. It is noteworthy, too, that throughout his account of the objects he consistently referred to them as "aircraft".

(2) Dahl described the aircraft as *doughnut-shaped.* Now this is very important. Neither Arnold's sighting nor any of those immediately following Arnold's referred to doughnut-shaped UFOs. However, later on this type were seen and photographed. Project Blue Book actually gave them the code name "Donut Lab"!

On Sunday, May 15, 1955, Warren Siegmond saw for a period of about a minute and a half a doughnut-shaped UFO over Union Square, New York City. He managed to take several photographs of the object which were reproduced in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (July/August 1955).

Another well-authenticated sighting of a doughnut-shaped object occurred on September 21, 1961, when two Boeing 707s belonging to BOAC and Pan American, respectively, encountered it over the Pacific.

If you or I were going to perpetrate a hoax three days before Arnold's sighting, is it likely that we would pick on doughnut-shaped objects which had not then been publicised? I think that the two sightings referred to above (and there have been others) go a long way to establishing that the Maury Island affair was no hoax.

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NEW BOOKS

IN our October 1966 special edition, *The Humanoids*, I briefly reported the Scorriton* contact claim in *Few and Far Between*, and ventured my opinion that the case sounded rather too good, too "manufactured" to be true. Since then, **Eileen Buckle** has completed an entertaining book around the affair, entitled **The Scoriton Mystery,** 336 pages, with illustrations, and published by Neville Spearman Ltd. at 30s.

Miss Buckle tells the story of the claim by Mr. Bryant that when he was out walking on April 24, 1965—the day after George Adamski died—he was suddenly confronted by a hovering aerial object. He also claimed that he had encountered three entities from the "craft", one of whom said his name was "Yamski" and, among other things, that he regretted the absence of a certain character named "Des" or "Les", that—in answer to Bryant's question—the craft was propelled by *ideo-motor movement*, and that a month later he would return and leave "proof of Mantell". And, according to the claim, the pieces of scrap were duly deposited.

The author proceeds with an account of BUFORA investigations and those of herself and friends. Miss Buckle also gives her own views on some aspects of the flying saucer mystery, and, interestingly, on the possibility of an overlap with poltergeist phenomena.

Unfortunately the impression is conveyed of something of a school outing atmosphere about the trips to Devon, and those elsewhere in search of confirmation that Mr. Bryant's pieces of metal were indeed from ill-fated Captain Mantell's aircraft. I cannot easily escape from my first impression that the case is too good to be true, yet there is one lingering doubt in my mind. . . .

It is unlikely that Mr. Bryant reads Spanish, and equally unlikely that he has access to Central and South American newspapers. While preparing material for *The Humanoids* Gordon Creighton rang me about an item he had discovered in *Noticias Populares* of August 23, 1965. This was the story of Mexican students who claimed to have met strange visitors who took them for a ride in a disc-shaped craft (see case 54, p.43 of *The Humanoids*). As we knew the full details of the Bryant claim, we decided to play down the following item while the investigation of the Scorriton case was proceeding. The translated extract from the item in *Noticias Populares* reads: "The many instruments possessed by the machine are not manipulated directly with their hands by the crew, but they do it with thought. They communicate with each other telepathically, for which reason a strange silence reigns inside the craft."

The question remains: did Mr. Bryant come across an English-language story of this account, a version that we missed? And, having seen it, did he feel prompted to draw on the Greek (*ideo:* idea, or thought) to coin the phrase *ideo-motor movement?* Or did some scholarly friend—who could also have provided the Greek tag found in the phial accompanying the pieces of scrap metal—help him out? If neither of these explanations fit the bill, then the Bryant story is indeed an interesting one.

(As we go to press we learn with regret that Mr. Bryant died recently.)

People sometimes ask why I have devoted so little space to events at Warminster. The answer is that we did publish an article, *The Warminster Phenomenon*, in the July/August 1965 edition of the REVIEW, in which we discussed the strange aerial noises, their effects on wild life, the discovery of a straight-line pattern based on "noise" reports which we related loosely to Aimé Michel's famous orthoteny, and the rather good sighting report of the Phillips family. From then on, such a tremendous ballyhoo built up that it became impossible to distinguish true cases from false. There was so much publicity and talk of a book to be written, and a strange character who sent a photograph, only to write a few weeks later hoping we had not published it because it was a fraud, that it became politic to lie low. One cynical friend observed: "This is building up for a contact claim".

Well, the book has arrived. Published by Neville Spearman Ltd., **The Warminster Mystery,** by **Arthur Shuttlewood**—205 pages, price 25s.—gathers the whole of the kerfuffle, and more besides, between two covers. There is the gradual build-up, many photographs, including Faulkner's, and an incredible number of sighting reports, of which some are well-reported. And, slipped in carefully, as suspected hoaxes, there are the contacts—by telephone. Beings from another planet—or this one?—getting in touch with Mr. S. from a nearby call box. However, before we dismiss such an idea out of hand, I think we should first turn to the final part of John Keel's article on page 20.

Charles Bowen

* West Country experts tell me that this is the correct spelling, and not as spelt in my article in *The Humanoids*.

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World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Chippenham landing

From the *Bath & Wilts Evening Chronicle* of February 22—

"A Chippenham scooter rider claimed today that he saw a mystery object with flashing red and green lights gliding across the sky as he was riding home last night.

"Graham Crammond, of Hardens Close, Chippenham, said the object glided above the road, turned a circle and floated down behind some trees into a field.

"He went home and told his sister and aunt and five minutes later the three of them saw the object again. It was spinning over houses to the north-east of Chippenham."

—Credit: I. G. Hatter, Melksham, Wilts.

Chased by saucer?

A slightly older account, this time from *The Essex Chronicle* of December 8, 1966—

"Christopher White . . . is certain that a flying saucer chased him and his girl friend through the winding lanes of Terling late on Sunday night. "Mr. White, who lives in Millers Croft, Springfield, was driving 19-year-old Penny Turner to her home in Orchard Lane, Broomfield.

" 'Suddenly we saw a deep red glow in a field next to the road,' he said yesterday. 'It trailed us to the end of Domsey Road, turning whenever we did. **I stopped at the cross-roads at the end of Domsey Road. The thing, all aflame, circled above us and then shot off towards Southend'."**

—Credit: P. E. Chadwick, Chelmsford.

Another Burghfield UFO

This account is taken from the *Reading Evening Post* of March 21—

"For the second time in three days a mysterious object has been sighted in the sky over Burghfield.

"The latest was seen by Mr. Ronald Salisbury, a 32-year-old employee at the Royal Ordnance factory, Burghfield. Another unidentified flying object was seen in the area on Friday.

"Mr. Salisbury said today that he was in the garden of his house in The Mearings, Burghfield, at about 7.30 last night. 'I was finishing off the garden when I happened to look across towards the Hatch Gate public house. I saw what I thought was a vapour trail from a plane. A couple of minutes later I looked up again and was surprised to see the plane still there. It was making sideways movements.

" 'I called my neighbours out, and we watched it for about five minutes in the same place in the sky. Then all of a sudden this object started to climb higher. It moved off at increasing speed towards Reading. It made no sound. . . .

"Mr. Salisbury described the flying object as 'at least twice the size of any airliner.' He said it was shaped like a carrot, thick at the front and tapering off to 'practically nothing' at the rear.

"Because it was dusk he said he could not see the surface of the craft.

"Mr. Salisbury said four people living next door saw the object while it was stationary, and another two watched it move off.

"On Friday a nurse driving her car at Burghfield Common saw a cigar-shaped object with no wings or propellers flying slowly and low over the ground."

Brixham dome

From the *Western Morning News* of April 29 comes the following story—

"A Coastguard, Mr. Brian Jenkins, said he saw an unidentified flying object yesterday. He kept it under observation through binoculars until it climbed out of sight in the Berry Head district of Brixham.

"Workmen at the Berry Head quarry reported the object to Mr. Jenkins at 11.30 a.m.

"He said: 'I have never seen anything like it in my life. It was about twice as big as a Vulcan bomber, or if you like the size of a street of houses. It was much too big to be a meteorological balloon.'

"He said it appeared to him to be like a transparent dome with what looked a door on one side.

"Mr. Jenkins reported the matter to the R.A.F., but by the time a spotter plane had arrived from Plymouth the object had disappeared.

"The 'very large' dome was said to have hovered over Brixham for about an hour and then slowly drifted northwards. It was stated to be at about 1,600ft.* when first seen, rising to 20,000ft.

"At the R.A.F. weather station at Mount Batten, the reaction was: 'It can't be one of our weather balloons; you would never see it at 20,000ft'."

—Credit: D. J. Ward of Dowsland, Yelverton.

* Typographical error in newspaper? Reported later as 16,000 ft.—EDITOR.

Ministry on the hop

The *Sunday Express* of May 21 carried a very interesting follow-up to the Brixham case—

"A giant cone-shaped object hovered 15,000ft. above the seven coastguards. For more than an hour they watched it through high-powered glasses.

"As the object hovered over Brixham, Devon, it slowly revolved, revealing some sort of door in its side. An aircraft approached, flew round it, and then flew away. Eventually the object vanished behind cloud after climbing to about 20,000ft.

"Scores of people along the Devon coast telephoned police stations to ask about the object, sighted at noon on April 28.

"The coastguards' report about the object was forwarded within minutes to the Ministry of Defence by the R.A.F. at Plymouth. But last night the Ministry's reaction to the report was puzzling the Brixham coastguards. For the Ministry at first denied that it had ever received a report.

"Later, a spokesman said: 'Further inquiries reveal that we did receive a report, but somehow it was not logged. We can only suggest that the object may have been a reflection of car headlights or some sort of meteorological phenomena. I cannot comment further.'

"A senior R.A.F. controller at Plymouth said: 'We reported all the details. I cannot tell you where the aircraft came from, and you will have a job to get anyone to admit that one was sent up. I understand the UFO was also tracked by radar.'

"At the coastguard station at Berry Head, Brixham, last night the chief officer, Harry Johnson, said: 'It's just laughable for anyone to suggest to a body of highly-trained observers that this was the reflection of car headlights. It was midday. The object was obviously made of something very highly polished, and reflected the sunlight almost like a star.'

"Coastguard Brian Jenkins said: 'I was able to make a detailed drawing of it which I showed to an air vice-marshal who called at the station a few days later. His only comment was: 'Most interesting'."

(*Car headlights at noon?* EDITOR.)

Humming UFO over Worthing

There have been a number of "fly-over" reports from Sussex coastal resorts in recent weeks. This interesting account comes from the *Worthing Gazette* of April 19—

"Mr. and Mrs. L. Moseley, of 54 Salvington-hill, were awakened by a steady loud humming noise at 2.15 a.m. on Monday, April 17. 'It was like a child's humming top,' Mrs. J. M. Moseley told a reporter.

" 'We inspected everything to find the cause of the noise, the television, aerials, and even the central heating.' Nothing was to be found in the garden and all seemed quiet in the neighbouring houses.

"Completely baffled, they went back to the bedroom. 'When we opened the curtains we saw a fantastic light shoot across the sky. It went behind Highdown hill,' said Mrs. Moseley. 'The terrific glow changed from its oval shape to that of an upturned saucer. Eventually just as it was coming down further over the hill it hovered and the light flickered. The humming noise died down. It started up again after about 15 minutes and the light went along sideways for at least a mile. Then it settled.'

"Mr. and Mrs. Moseley continued to watch the light. They were too amazed to think of ringing the police.

"Mrs. Moseley continued the story. 'At about 4.30 the glow rose up slowly and started humming again, louder and louder. And then it was gone . . . like that.'

"Worthing police and meteorological office have had no other reports of the light or humming.

"Mrs. Moseley stressed that they did not see the object causing the light, just the brilliant white glow.

" 'It was terrifying,' she said, 'the noise was so beautifully controlled that it made me feel really nervous'."

AUSTRALIA

Highway saucer

The *Sunraysia Daily* of March 11, 1967, tells how—

"An English family of seven claimed last night that a flying saucer hovered near their car as they drove along the Silver City Highway to Dareton. They said it was bigger than an aeroplane and only about 90ft. above them.

"A spokesman for the Mildura Balloon Launching Station said later that they had no balloons in the air at the time.

"Mr. and Mrs. Brian Wilshire were driving their three children and Mrs. Wilshire's parents to the fruit block at Dareton East where they are working. Mrs. Wilshire said that she first saw the 'saucer' at 6.30 p.m. about half-way between Mildura and Dareton.

" 'At first I thought it was a cloud, then I realised that it couldn't have been,' she said. 'It was silhouetted by the sun and hovering above the road in front of us. It seemed dark grey in colour. What I was looking at was the bottom of the saucer, for it seemed to roll and then shot off eastwards.'

"Mrs. Wilshire said the object was oval, 'like a rugby ball,' with a high dome on the top. 'I was pretty frightened, I must admit.'

"The rest of the family saw the object immediately after Mrs. Wilshire, and her father, Mr. Hector Coe, said that it could have been no more than 90ft. in the air.

"It was difficult to judge its size but it was much bigger than the average aeroplane,' he said.

" 'When it shot away and disappeared from view, I would say that its speed was between 200 and 300 m.p.h. I learned to judge the speed of aircraft during the war in aerial observation.'

"Mr. Wilshire said there seemed to be a haze around the object 'something like a heat haze.'

"After it moved away he thought it was moving in to land and he accelerated to try and keep it in sight around a bend. He said the object was in full view of the whole family for at least three minutes."

—Credit: Mrs. Judith Magee, Victorian F.S. Research Society.

Bowling green saucer

From the *Sun-Herald* of March 12, 1967, we learn that—

"Two sisters described this week how they stood on a veranda together and watched a flying saucer hover over a Canterbury bowling green.

"They said the saucer was a 'strange round thing' and it made a 'weird humming sound.'

"It came down to tree-top level and was less than 100ft. from where they stood.

"The woman who first made the sighting is Mrs. D. Manhood, of Wairoa Street, Canterbury.

"Her sister, Mrs. R. Coleman, joined her on the veranda seconds later and they watched the saucer's flight for 10 minutes.

"It happened at 10.10 a.m. on Wednesday. Mrs. Manhood had just washed the breakfast dishes and had tidied up the house.

"The house adjoins the Canterbury Women's Bowling Club where Mrs. Manhood's husband is the greenkeeper.

"Her sister was on a visit and was telephoning her mother. There was no one on the bowling green because it was raining and had been all morning.

"Mrs. Manhood said: 'My daughter, Joanne, wandered on to the veranda and I went to get her.

" 'It was a strange round thing which seemed to come down from the clouds. It hovered over the bowling green less than a room's length from where I stood. I think I must have screamed because my sister ran out. We both saw it. It was level with the telephone wires and I think it made a weird sort of humming sound.

" 'It was like a big plate, the size of a small aeroplane, and a dark grey colour. I had not seen anything like it before, nor had my sister. We were just stunned.'

" 'It disappeared over the railway line, over there to the west. We thought it might have landed because there are paddocks there. But seconds later it rose from behind the railway line and shot up towards the highest point in the sky.

" 'And we watched it there for at least another five minutes before it disappeared into a break in the clouds.'

"Mrs. Manhood said she called to her husband before 'the thing' completely disappeared.

" He told her it was only a balloon. But later he told *The Sun-Herald:* 'I don't know now. Carolyn was pretty hysterical and so was her sister.'

"There is another thing that convinces Mrs. Manhood she wasn't seeing things. 'Another strange thing happened that day,' she said.

" 'When my sister rushed to the veranda she whispered to me that the telephone had suddenly gone dead'."

—Credit: Judith Magee.

CANADA

These two reports were sent in by Dr. P. M. H. Edwards of Victoria, B.C., to whom we are greatly indebted.

UFO hovered over road

On April 14, 1967, at about 8.05 p.m., Ian Squire and Scott McNeill (two boys aged about 13 or 14) were on their cycles going along Cedar Hill Crossroad. They crossed over Cadboro Bay Road into Upper Terrace Road (Uplands residential district), and proceeded down into Ripon Road as far as the Circle. From there, they saw a red and a green light hovering over what they thought was probably the area of the Uplands Golf Club-House on Cadboro Bay Road. They were on their way down to the Yacht Club, and didn't stop to investigate. The two lights were not blinking, and seemed stationary (but it must be remembered that on their cycles, they were moving, which prevented their being certain about this last point). The sky was dark and starry: there was hardly any wind at all.

At 8.10 p.m. the same night, i.e. five or six minutes later, Ian Squire's grandmother (name withheld at witness' request) was driving uphill along Cadboro Bay Road southwards towards the northern gates into The Uplands district, when suddenly she saw a red and a green light over the roadway at about the height of the roofs of the houses on the upper bank of the roadway, i.e. higher than a very tall tree. The witness, who is known to me personally and through her daughter, and grandson Ian, unfortunately did not stop to investigate. Instead, she continued on right underneath the object which, she said, looked like a very indistinct dark shape which spread entirely over the width of the wide roadway. The two coloured lights, she said, seemed to be shining only forwards, and to be from four to six feet from the extremities of the dark shape behind them. There was a tiny white light behind, which did not seem to be attached to the object in any way; but as the night was very dark, she admits that this could also have been a star. The coloured lights were not blinking, and the object seemed not to move, although she of course was moving towards it in her car. She described the object (which, she admits, she saw very indistinctly in the almost complete darkness), as a black wing-like thing which made no noise. Then she suddenly thought: "Surely it can't be a plane, this low. Perhaps it is a flying-saucer". The size of the two coloured lights was small, about the size of ordinary car blinker-lights. If the witness had stopped to investigate, this could have been a most important sighting. Unfortunately, she preferred to continue on her way, and thus lost a great opportunity.

[*This is a most important report. A researcher in the United States, many hundreds of miles from British Columbia, has reported seeing several such dark shapes with lights as described above. And these, when observed at slightly higher altitudes have been mistaken as "star-like objects," so often the target of witch-hunters among ufologists. It was the American report—private, and not yet to be published as the picture is incomplete—which led to the ideas discussed in the May/June editorial. Nor should we forget the report of Miss Bertha Humphries of North Walsham in her Mail Bag letter in the January/February issue. It is also suggested that readers should refer to the case of Mr. Hann whose car was overtaken on the Stroud - Bath road on or about December 9, 1965. This case was reported in the World Round-up columns of our March-April 1966 issue.*—EDITOR].

Victoria Blackout

Thursday, April 13, around 8.15 p.m., Victoria's lights suddenly all dimmed for a couple of seconds; and at that moment, witnesses in town chanced to see a coloured object streak across the sky. The Press tried to "explain" this dimming to lightning up at Campbell River, some 200 miles away: this, however, would seem unconvincing, in view of the numerous past cases where a certain type of UFO has repeatedly caused the dimming, and indeed the blackout, of electric lights in widely separated areas. It is also well-known to researchers that other types of UFSs do not affect electrical installations; on the other hand, it is possible that UFSs may have the ability to affect such installations, or to refrain from doing so, at will.

SOUTH AFRICA

Durban UFO and blackout

The Durban *Sunday Tribune* of April 16, 1967, carried the following account—

"As reports of a violent explosion streamed in to the *Sunday Tribune* offices last night from residents living all over Durban, electricity failure plunged most of the southern areas of the city into darkness. Meanwhile, a resident of Woodlands, one of the blacked-out suburbs, telephoned to report a flying saucer high over the city.

"Officials of the Durban Electricity Department reported that the power failure was due to the breakdown of a main electric cable in the Hillary area. But, they added, a cable failure would not normally produce a loud explosion.

"Mrs. Audrey Russell, of Malvern, telephoned to report: 'An explosion which sounded just like the one when an oil tanker blew up in Durban harbour some years ago.' She and her family had rushed into the garden expecting to see another pillar of fire in the city. But there was nothing.

"Ten minutes later, Malvern and all surrounding suburbs were plunged into darkness.

"Meanwhile, Mr. S. T. Thom, of Woodlands, telephoned to report that he had sighted what appeared to be a flying saucer hovering at approximately 35,000ft. over the city. After moving slowly from east to west, the object suddenly flew off rapidly towards the north."

—Credit: Philipp Human.

FRANCE

Falling leaf object

From the Caen edition of *Ouest-France* of April 19, we learn that—

"An inhabitant of May-sur-Orne (10 kms. to the south of Caen), M. Joseph Ivanicki, saw, on Monday evening (April 17) at about 8.45 p.m., a luminous object moving through the sky towards the north.

"As big as a football, the mysterious machine fluttered in the manner of a falling leaf. It disappeared from the view of the witness after some ten minutes' observation."

—Credit: Suzette Saunier, Courseulles-sur-Mer.

Sparking object

M. D. Leger reports from Le Mans that on the morning of Friday, March 24, two people who were buying their morning newspapers at 7.0 a.m. saw an orange ball, turning on its axis and emitting sparks.

—Credit: Suzette Saunier.

BULGARIA

Deltavolant

The French newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* of April 9 carried the following report from Sofia (A.P.)—

"On two days a mysterious celestial body has flown over the South-Eastern part of Bulgaria. The phenomenon was observed from the observatory at Stara Zagora on Thursday, April 6, at 6.30 p.m.

"The object, which was triangular in shape, was followed by a trail which was only just visible, and rapidly lost its luminosity."

—Credit: Suzette Saunier.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Saucer speaks

The Seattle *Post Intelligencer* of April 2, 1967, tells how, late on Friday, March 31, a man encountered a landed flying saucer near Wellington, Texas. When he told his story next morning, he claimed he had spoken to it! The account continues—

"The man, Carroll Watts, said he was returning home from his father's residence about a mile north of his home at about 10.30 Friday night when he saw a light from about where an abandoned house stands.

"He turned off the dirt road and headed toward the light. He said he drove to within about 20 feet of an object which 'appeared to be about 100 feet long and eight or ten feet high.'

" 'I walked around the side of it, and about 20 feet down the side I found a port or door. I knocked on it three or four times and it opened mechanically,' he said.

" 'A VOICE began speaking to

me—it was an unemotional voice neither masculine nor feminine. It asked me if I would be willing to submit to a rigorous physical examination.'

" 'I asked them why I would want to take a physical and they told me that if I passed it, I would be able to make a flight with them. They said any man who passed the physical could make a flight, but no women or children would be taken.

" 'They pointed out a machine against the opposite wall from where I was standing outside the door. They said all I had to do was stand before the machine to take a physical.

" 'About two or three feet forward from the machine was a map. It was about a yard square and began about a foot from the floor. It appeared to be a large-scale land map—but I couldn't tell what it was a map of.

" 'Then they informed me that they had a machine that, when the ship flew within 300 yards of a building, could tell how many people were in the building and their ages.

" 'They (the voice) then asked me again to take the physical—and when I declined, they told me that several people had taken the test and had made the flights.

" 'They, whoever they were, said they were stationed all over the world and could come and go as they pleased—no one could stop them.

" 'I told them I didn't want to take that physical and left. I got back in my car and turned the lights on the ship.

" 'As I pulled in front of it, it rose slightly and turned to the south. There was a light, about 20 inches across, on the tip of the nose. As the ship was sitting, it gave off a clear fluorescent light, but when the ship began to move, the light took on a reddish cast.

" 'As I drove off, the object lifted from the ground and took off, heading to the south. It made no noise whatsoever. I guess the whole thing lasted about ten to 15 minutes.'

"As he spoke to UPI by telephone, Watts had two Air Force investigators at his home. The investigators were sent to Wellington from Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

"One man in Wellington said Watts was considered to be 'above reproach.'

"The incident is the third reported in the Wellington area in the last month. On March 21, Watts reported sighting such a craft flying at about 50 miles an hour over a road for about eight miles.

"On March 23, an Air Force man reported that he was chased along a road by a similar craft for some time."

—Credit: John A. Keel, New York City.

FSR correspondent sees UFO

John Keel, who has been conducting extensive investigations in the Ohio Valley region, has sent the following account from the Athens, Ohio, newspaper *The Messenger*, of Tuesday, April 4. He states that he himself saw the object described in the report—

"Mrs. Johnny Clendenin, Madison Avenue, reported seeing a UFO above her home at about 8 p.m., Monday. The object was visible for about two minutes and was approximately 50 feet above her house.

"Mrs. Clendenin said it had red and white lights which went on and off alternately. At times it would go in a circle and then it looked as if there was another red light on its top, she said. There was no sound.

"She said that she has seen similar objects in recent evenings, but never for as long a period. Another woman in the same area reported a few nights ago that she saw a UFO fly so low she thought it was landing on a housetop."

West Virginia flap continues

In a report from Point Pleasant, the April 13 edition of *The Messenger* of Athens, Ohio, tells how—

"The UFO's have been sighted nightly again in many parts of Mason County. The James Lilly family at Camp Conley have seen as many as six in one night for nearly three weeks.

"The Lillys report many people come and watch with them. The objects appear in many different directions, but apparently come from the TNT area. The sightings sometimes are very close. Objects are red and white and sometimes travel very fast while other times go very slow, without sound. Witnesses agree the objects aren't airplanes.

"One UFO came very close to the Lilly home, illuminating the house. Their television went on the blink for a short time.

"Mrs. Lilly and children Linda and Garry said a 'big bright' object followed them from Route 62 to their home one night. Their daughter-in-law, Doris Lilly, has also seen these objects. Johnny Lilly said that one night it looked as if an object had diamond-shaped windows in it. . . .

"More than a dozen people saw the UFO Wednesday night at the Lilly home."

—Credit: John A. Keel.

UFOs and Telephone Mystery voices

In the Point Pleasant *Register* of April 13, Pat Siler writes—

"I went on a watch party for UFOs. I got in my car, travelled nervously out to the designated area, turned out the lights, parked the car on a street already crowded with cars, and quietly got out to join the watchers.

"It was a lark, and yet I felt a little tense when someone said 'It's time,' and there was something in the sky.

"It flies and has terribly bright lights, the brightest one rotating. The family in the house at the end of the street watches every evening. They have sighted the flying objects every half hour or hour each night for three weeks.

"One night it came very close and they reported it is shaped like a 'slightly-flat diamond.'

One of the vehicles has a blue light, but the others have only red, green, and white lights.

"There is no sound of motors, but the TV set goes awry when the contraption is near.

"Their daughter-in-law, who lives in Point Pleasant, has a phone call five minutes after she enters the house each day after work. No one speaks. The phone has been repaired and repaired, but continues to act up. She reports making calls and hearing garbled voices or voices speaking a language she has never heard.

"This peculiar situation has existed for exactly three weeks.

"Is there a connection between the sightings and the phone calls? She doesn't know, but is cautious and doesn't stay overnight by herself. . . .

"Point Pleasant is keeping the exact location unidentified, and the family will remain anonymous. But everyone will watch."

—Credit: John A. Keel.

UFO roared like a vacuum cleaner

The *Los Angeles Times* of March 10 published an article (UPI) which headlined the fact that scores of people had reported UFOs over Kansas and Illinois on the night of March 9/10—

"The object sighted over five counties in northwest Kansas reportedly made sounds like a large vacuum cleaner. One observer in Illinois reported he watched an object which made a hissing sound.

"A Goodland (Kan.) policeman reported seeing an object brilliantly white on the front, with red and amber lights on the sides, roaring like a huge vacuum cleaner.

"The editor of the *Goodland Daily News*, Tom Dreiling, said in his four years with the Air Force he never heard propellers, jets or anything else sound like that.

"Frank Courson, a Knox County deputy sheriff who said he had been on the force 19 years and had been a private pilot for three years, said he watched an object, which he said

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was later joined by a second UFO, for more than an hour and during that time took notes and made a sketch of the object.

"He said the object was 'bluish-white and pulsating red.' It had a 'rim that looked like it was about five feet thick' at the bottom of what looked like 'an upside down bowl.'

" 'Taking into consideration the altitude and distance,' he said the UFO appeared to be about 35 feet in diameter.

"The object was first spotted about 35 miles north in Henry County. Deputy Sheriff, Bob Powell, said he saw the UFO and his description matched Courson's. Both men denied knowing the other.

"Police officer Bill Green said he watched the UFO for 45 minutes before it was joined by a second, identical craft.

"Courson said he and a group of people watched the objects through binoculars for more than half an hour as they danced about over two radio transmitting towers.

"He said at one point he saw an airplane fly by. The time he said the plane flew by was confirmed by radar operators in Chicago who scan the area with remote-controlled equipment. The radar men said they saw nothing else on their screen but Courson said the objects were too low to be spotted by radar.

" 'I first saw the object from the patrol car,' said Courson. 'As I was watching it moved over the car. I was thinking about getting out of there but thought 'what the hell' and got out to use my binoculars.'

"The object emitted a hissing sound, said Courson, and at one point in the distance he saw the UFO release 'a white beam of light that hit the ground with a kind of flash.' "

—Credit: W. H. Church, of Los Angeles.

Air Force version of Crestview report

The *Miami Herald* of April 11 told how the U.S. Air Force had come up with an explanation of the Crestview School sighting of April 7 (see *World Round-Up* in our May/June issue)—

"The 'sighting' of an unidentified flying object Friday morning by 200 Crestview Elementary School children and three teachers was, in fact, a helicopter practicing take-offs and landings.

"The Air Force conclusion came after a team of three men spent Friday afternoon at the site and interviewed 'witnesses.'

" 'The majority of the witnesses described the object as white with a red light that flashed once,' the report said. 'The investigation revealed that a Coast Guard helicopter, white with red trim, was manuevering in the area of North Perry Airport between 9.31 a.m. and 11.07.'

"Bob Apfel is one of those 'witnesses.' He saw what the children pointed at and said: 'It was a flying saucer. I have no reason to tell anything but the truth,' he said. 'I'm not sorry for anything I said . . . '

"Among the children, Andy Cohen says the Air Force is mistaken. If his 'cigars' were helicopters, he said, 'you would have been able to see something that looked like overhead rotors.'

"Of the four objects the boy says he saw, only one was white.

"Of the half-dozen witnesses a NICAP investigator has interviewed, none has reported the object producing any sound. 'How do they account for it being completely silent?' he asks."

—Credit: F. Martin of Miami.

HAWAII
Objects over Oahu

This extract is taken from *The Honolulu Advertiser* of January 23, 1967—

"At least seven policemen, several commercial pilots and a ship at sea reported unidentified flying objects (UFOs) over Oahu yesterday.

"Police logged the first UFO at 5.50 a.m. It moved generally from Koko Head toward Ewa during a six-minute period. Their report describes the object as 'a bright, yellow-orange light,' similar to a star except for its colour, centered in a circular blue mist 'about 100 times larger than the light.'

"The light remained centered in the blue mist as the object moved . . . slowly when watched against the sky, but rapidly when seen against the stars.

"The object did not leave a vapour trail, the officers said.

"They said they watched the object for six minutes as it moved seaward and toward Ewa. Then, in a period of about 30 seconds, the mist faded away and a few seconds later the light vanished.

"The officers could not estimate the height of the UFO, but said it was 'very high.'

"The second object, appearing as two bright lights, was reported at 6.03 a.m.—four minutes after the first. The lights appeared to be hovering over the Koko Head area but moving from west to east—opposite of the first object, according to the viewers.

"A policeman in Waikiki spotted the lights at 6.30 a.m. At 6.24 he radioed police headquarters that a jet plane was approaching the lights. At 6.28 he said one jet was near the lights and that other planes were approaching.

"But the Air Force denied that any jets had been sent to inspect the lights.

"At 6.25 a.m. the Weather Bureau notified police that the lights appeared to be a star, since they vanished as the sun rose.

"Later the Air Force and local astronomers agreed, saying the lights probably were the star Antares."

[*It later transpired that a second explanation, nearer at hand than the star Antares, was on the cards.*—EDITOR.]

"The Air Force said here late last night that one of two unidentified flying objects seen over Hawaii early yesterday could have been a missile fired from California.

"An Air Force spokesman said a test missile was fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 5.45 a.m., Hawaii time. Such missiles usually take a more southerly route and are not seen in the Islands, the spokesman said."

More on the January 22 sighting

The Honolulu Advertiser of January 26 published a letter from a Mr. T. Walter Hashimoto—

"The UFO mentioned in your news article on January 23 was also seen in Hilo on the same date and approximately the same time (5-6 a.m., January 22).

"I was fishing at Hilo wharf, when another fisherman pointed to this strange mass in the sky. This mass was the most unusual thing I had ever seen. It was a huge, round mass with a bright object in the middle. It somewhat resembled a cell with a nucleus in the center, but unlike a cell, the nucleus was moving in an irregular, haphazard manner. I can even go as far as to say it was 'bouncing.'

"Unlike the report that said it was 'about 100 times larger than the light,' I say that the mass was far, far larger. It was very distinct since it came almost directly overhead and moved in the direction of Mauna Kea. I didn't notice any specific colour, and the height was indeterminable.

"As the mass approached Mauna Kea, it began to 'dissolve' slowly, just as the moon changes its phases from a full to a quarter moon. As the mass disappeared the light continued moving toward the direction of Mauna Kea. But a few seconds later, sparks appeared; the object kept on moving and more sparks appeared.

"Unfortunately, I cannot continue here, since I was distracted when my pole had a bite. When I looked up

again it was gone or camouflaged against all those stars.

"It was possibly an optical illusion, but I think I saw something resembling lightning bolts shooting out of the lighted object. I hope you will check other peoples observations to see if they saw anything resembling this."
—Credit: Albert Hanohano Jr. of Honolulu, who had additional information for us in his letter of April 13—

"There is one little item missing from the reports and that is that one of the UFOs was photographed by a commercial airline pilot who was in the vicinity. This report of the alleged UFO film was mentioned constantly on the radio newscasts, but has not appeared in any news media since that time. It was also reported on January 23 (6.0 p.m. news, channel 9) that at 1.30 p.m. five Air Force officers observed a group of UFOs in formation over Hickam AFB. This item has not been mentioned since."

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

The Extraordinary Happenings at Casa Blanca
by Gordon Creighton

Do the Cherubims come from Mars?
by Peter Gilman

and many other interesting items

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